

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

1ST SEMESTER 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

**FIRST YEAR EXAMINATIONS FOR
BACHELOR OF ARTS (ENGLISH AND
COMMUNICATION)**

CELS 111: INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

STREAM: R

TIME: 2 HRS

DAY: WEDNESDAY (11.30-13.30)

DATE: 28/01/2026

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3 PAGES)

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INSTRUCTIONS

Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY)**(26 marks)**

1. a. Examine these two texts on the same topic and answer the following questions

Text A (Spoken - transcribed from conversation)

"So, um, I was thinking, you know, about this whole climate thing, right? And like, it's really, really serious, but people don't... I mean, they don't really get it, do they? It's like, we're talking about the future here, the whole planet and stuff..."

Text B (Written - from article)

"Climate change represents one of the most significant challenges facing humanity. Despite overwhelming scientific consensus, public understanding remains inadequate. The long-term implications for planetary ecosystems demand immediate attention."

- i. Identify and explain THREE specific linguistic differences between these texts **(3 marks)**
 - ii. What TWO things do these differences reveal about the nature of spoken vs. written language? **(2 marks)**
 - iii. Explain what linguists consider more fundamental between spoken and written language giving an example **(1 mark)**
- b. Describe the dance language of honey bees and the information it conveys **(4 marks)**
 - c. Discuss FOUR (4) non literal uses of language to communicate **(8 marks)**
 - d. Name any TWO artificial languages and explain their uses. **(4 marks)**
 - e. Distinguish TWO main functions of language, giving an example of each **(4 marks)**

QUESTION TWO**(22 marks)**

- 2.a. Define 'language' comprehensively. **(4 marks)**
- b. There are many theories that propagate the origin of language. Describe the specific claims made by THREE (3) MAIN categories of theories, giving examples. **(18 marks)**

QUESTION THREE (22 marks)

- a. Human language possesses unique characteristics. State and explain any SEVEN (7) properties that distinguish human language from other forms of communication. (21 marks)
- b. Analyse any similarity between language and non-human communication. (1 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (22 marks)

- a. Define linguistics comprehensively. (2 mark)
- b. Explain what is entailed in the study of the following linguistic branches, giving an example of each (20 marks)
- i. Phonetics and phonology.
 - ii. Morphology and syntax.
 - iii. Sociolinguistics and Psycholinguistics.
 - iv. Semantics and Pragmatics

QUESTION FIVE (22 marks)

- a. What does it mean to 'Know' a language? (2 marks)
- b. Illustrate any FOUR writing systems, showing one advantage and one disadvantage of each and giving one example of a language using each system (20 marks)