

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

1ST SEMESTER 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

**FOURTH YEAR EXAMINATIONS FOR
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)**

ENGL 411: SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

STREAM:

TIME:2 HRS

DAY: FRIDAY (8.30-10.30PM)

DATE: 6/2/2026

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (2 PAGES)

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR SAYS SO.

INSTRUCTIONS:**ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS****QUESTION ONE**

- 1(a) Critically discuss Austin's THREE categories of **Speech Acts**. (5 marks)
- (b) Explain what constitutes **cooperativeness** in a normal conversation. (10 marks)
- (c) Discuss and illustrate with two examples for each how conversation maxims are infringed by;
- (i) **Opting out of a maxim**
- (ii) **Flouting a maxim**
- (iii) **Violating a maxim** (15 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- 2 (a) Explain with illustrations the distinction between Utterances, sentences and proposition. (10 marks)
- (b) Critically discuss the following theories of meaning:
- (i) **Referential theory of meaning**
- (ii) **Mentalistic/ Ideational theory of meaning.** (10 marks)

QUESTION THREE

3. Discuss Geoffrey Leech's (1983) **seven types** of meaning. (20 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

4. (a) **Distinguish** sense from reference with appropriate illustrations. (10 marks)
- (b) Critically discuss the following sense relations with two examples for each:
- (i) **Meaning opposition**
- (ii) **Meaning inclusion** (10 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- 5 (a) Explain the term **lexical decomposition**. (4 marks)
- (b) Using a feature matrix perform a lexical decomposition of Four semantic feature of ROSE, MANGO, ALOE VERA and TOMATO. (16 marks)