

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

1ST SEMESTER 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

**EXAMINATION FOR THE MASTERS OF ARTS
DEGREE IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS**

LING 814: LANGUAGE IN SOCIAL CONTEXT

STREAM: R

TIME: 3 HRS

DAY: TUESDAY (12.30-3.30PM)

DATE: 03/02/2026

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3 PAGES)

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR SAYS SO.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer question one and any other two

QUESTION ONE: 30 MARKS

- i. Drawing on definitions from Currie, Fishman, Hudson, and Wardhaugh, explain the distinction between macro sociolinguistics (sociology of language) and micro sociolinguistics. **(6 marks)**
- ii. Compare:
 - a) Regional dialects and social dialects (sociolects). **(4 marks)**
 - b) Register and style. **(4 marks)**
- iii. Elaborate the notion of dialect continuum using a language of your choice. **(8 marks)**
- iv. Drawing on Whorf's exposition of the Hopi worldview and examples like magical words in fishing communities, analyze how language reflects and shapes social structures. **(8 marks)**

QUESTION TWO: 15 MARKS

Explain Dell Hymes' SPEAKING model for ethnography of communication, applying it to a hypothetical university lecture scenario (e.g., a professor addressing students on sociolinguistics). **(15 marks)**

QUESTION THREE: (15 MARKS)

Define diglossia according to Ferguson, outlining its nine rubrics. **(15 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR: (15 MARKS)

- i. Explain the notion of "speech community" Using apt examples argue why speech communities are better viewed as dynamic, overlapping groups based on individuals' multiple identifications rather than fixed linguistic boundaries. **(7 marks)**
- ii. Distinguish pidgins from creoles. **(8 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE: (15 MARKS)

- i. Differentiate between borrowings, code mixing, and code switching. **(6 marks)**
- ii. Analyze how these phenomena in i) above arise from language contact and discuss their social functions in maintaining or shifting identities in bilingual communities. **(7 marks)**

QUESTION SIX: (15 MARKS)

Imagine you are advising a government in a newly independent nation with three major ethnic groups, each with their own language. Propose a language planning strategy that includes elements of acquisition and attitude planning. Justify your choices and anticipate potential drawbacks. **(15 marks)**