

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

1ST SEMESTER 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

SECOND YEAR EXAMINATIONS FOR BACHELOR OF ARTS (ENGLISH AND COMMUNICATION)

CELS 211: SOCIOLINGUISTICS

STREAM:

TIME: 2 HRS

DAY: MONDAY (11.30AM-1.30PM)

DATE: 26/1/2026

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

1) a) Distinguish the following concepts:

i) Regional and social dialect (4 marks)

ii) Style and register (4 marks)

iii) Language and dialect (4 marks)

b) Elaborate on the concept of dialect continuum. (5 marks)

c) Explain the concept of a "lingua franca" and describe its role in multilingual societies. (3 marks)

d) Imagine you are in a bilingual community where Spanish and English are spoken. Apply the concept of diglossia to explain how these languages might function. (10 marks)

QUESTION TWO

2. a) Define a speech community according to Wardhaugh. (2 marks)

b) Explain how intersecting communities can complicate this definition. (3 marks)

c) Provide an example of a network within a speech community and its influence on language use. (3 marks)

d) Explain the difference between "status planning" and "corpus planning" in language planning, with an example of each. (12 marks)

QUESTION THREE

3. What is the "ethnography of speaking"? Describe its key components using the SPEAKING mnemonic. (20 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

4 a) In a workplace setting, apply Brown and Levinson's politeness theory to explain why a manager might use indirect language like "Could you possibly finish that report by tomorrow?" instead of a direct command. (10 marks)

- b) Using the concept of taboo and euphemism, apply it to how a society might discuss death in polite conversation, and explain the cultural reasons. **(10 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

5. a) Describe the process of creolization and provide an example of a creole language. **(10 marks)**
- b) Discuss two key differences in language use between men and women as discussed in this course and provide a possible explanation. **(10 marks)**