



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

Faculty of Arts

Department of Languages

2019_1 EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE: ENG432

COURSE TITLE: PRAGMATICS

CREDIT UNITS: 3

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTION: Answer Any **3** Questions (*Correct use of language elements will earn an additional 1 mark*)

1. Write short notes on the following:

- a) Presupposition (5½ marks)
- b) Linguistic Context (6 marks)
- c) Inference (5½ marks)
- d) Pragmatics (6 marks)

(23 marks/1 hour)

2. (a) “The use of language entails doing things with words”. In the light of this statement, discuss with 3 examples each, locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts. (15 marks)

(b) Define and explain the concept of entailment. Support your explanation with 2 examples. (8 marks)

(23 marks/1 hour)

3. (a) Explain what you understand by conversational maxims (**5 marks**)

(b) Read the conversations below and explain the conversational maxims that have been flouted in each exchange (**8 marks**)

(i) Olu: Where have you been? I have been searching for you for two whole weeks.

Nkechi: I wasn't around. Is there any problem?

(ii) Mother: Why did you come late from school today?

Daughter: Mummy should I serve the pepper soup now?

(iii) Udoh: I like your dress

Kemi: Oh really? I bought it in Aba when I travelled for a conference last year. It was a bit expensive. Can you imagine these Aba traders? Always looking for a way to cheat customers.....

(iv) Musa (speaking on the phone to a debtor from his office in Kano): Hello Ben, where are you?

Ben: (who is also in Kano): Hello Musa, how's Kano? I travelled to Uyo. I'm not sure I'll be back in the next two weeks

(c) Discuss with examples the pragmatic concept of Face **(10 marks)**

(23 marks/1 hour)

4. (a) Discuss with examples the concept of discourse markers. **(10 marks)**

(b) Explain the interconnectedness of Pragmatics and Sociolinguistics **(13 marks)**

(23 marks/1 hour)