

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

B.A. EXAMINATIONS

EL 404 PRAGMATICS AND COMMUNICATION

JULY 2010

100 MARKS

TIME: THREE (3) HOURS

Instructions:

- **Answer any THREE (3) questions**
- **All questions carry equal marks**
- **Support your answers with relevant examples**
- **Marks will be deducted for poor grammar and style**

1. Explain what is meant by 'indirectness' in interaction. Suggest reasons why interactants may choose to be indirect in their utterances, supporting your answer by contextualized examples.

2. Give an example of how you might perform the following speech acts in each of the contexts given. For each speech act, discuss the reasons for any differences in your utterances.
 - (a) CONGRATULATING:
 - (i) you wish to congratulate a friend (same gender, same age) who has done well in their exams;
 - (ii) you wish to congratulate an older aunt/uncle (different gender) who has been promoted at work;
 - (iii) you wish to congratulate a younger brother/sister who has been selected for a school sports team.

 - (b) WARNING
 - (i) you wish to warn a friend (different gender, same age) who is thinking of starting a relationship with someone you do not trust;
 - (ii) you wish to warn a foreign visitor to Lesotho who is about to do something that you think may cause offence;
 - (iii) you wish to warn your father that his heavy smoking may damage his health.

3. You are working in your garden/ washing your car etc. when a foreign tourist stops their car and says:
 - (i) How do I get to Ramabanta?
 - (ii) I'm trying to get to Ramabanta – I think I'm lost.
 - (iii) Excuse me, could you possibly tell me the way to Ramabanta?
 - (iv) Hey, you! Which way to Ramabanta?
 - (v) I'm so sorry to bother you, but please could you tell me the way to Ramabanta?
 - (vi) I realise I'm interrupting your work and I'm a real nuisance, but I seem to have got lost and need to know the way to Ramabanta.

Discuss these utterances in terms of their relative politeness:

(a) using Brown and Levinson's model of Face Threatening Acts

AND

(b) using Locher and Watts's model of Relational Work.

4. Suggest how a familiarity with the principles of pragmatics might assist a nurse's professional communication with patients. Support your answer by a variety of relevant examples.

5. Explain what Grice meant by 'flouting' conversational maxims. Comment on each of the following six (6) pairs of short (invented) interactions in terms of their observance or flouting of conversational maxims, suggesting reasons for the choice of utterances.

- Ai) *Child:* When is Grandmother coming home from hospital?
Parent: Not for a long time. She's had to go to another place.
- Aii) *Child:* When is Grandmother coming home from hospital?
Parent: I'm afraid she won't be coming home. Your grandmother died this morning.
- Bi) *Mary:* Have you seen my cell phone?
John: Yes.
- Bii) *Mary:* Have you seen my cell phone?
John: It's on the table next to your bed.
- Ci) *Puleng:* When do you think Tsepho will come back from Johannesburg?
Thabo: I don't know.
- Cii) *Puleng:* When do you think Tsepho will come back from Johannesburg?
Thabo: Well, I know he's applied for a job in Pretoria and I expect he'll have to wait and see if he gets an interview. If he gets the job, he might have to start at once. So I've really no idea.
- Di) *Paul:* Where's my drink gone?
Tom: You never finish your glass.
- Dii) *Paul:* Where's my drink gone?
Tom: The waiter thought you'd finished, so he took it away.
- Ei) *Mojilefa:* Can you lend me 200 Maloti?
Lebohang: It's the middle of the month.
- Eii) *Mojilefa:* Can you lend me 200 Maloti?
Lebohang: Sorry, I'd like to help, but I'm short of cash myself.
- Fi) *Interviewer:* Did you expect to lose the match?
Coach: No – I'd really thought we would win.
- Fii) *Interviewer:* Did you expect to lose the match?
Coach: Look, some unexpected things happened. First, Mokoena went down with flu last night, so we had to field our second goal keeper. Then they brought on this new young guy, Petersen, and we didn't know what to expect of him. It wasn't our best day.