



**NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

FACULTY OF COMMERCE, HUMAN SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGES

QUALIFICATION: BACHELOR OF ENGLISH AND LINGUISTICS	
QUALIFICATION CODE: (07BENL)	LEVEL: 5
COURSE CODE: ILS511S	COURSE NAME: Introduction to Language in Society
SESSION: JULY 2025	PAPER: THEORY
TIME: 3H00	MARKS: 100

SECOND OPPORTUNITY EXAMINATION PAPER	
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MODERATOR:	Dr Anneli Nghikembua

INSTRUCTIONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Answer all questions.2. Read all the questions carefully before answering.3. Make sure your name and surname, question number, and the date appear on the answer script.4. Please ensure that your writing is legible, neat and presentable.

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF 4 PAGES, INCLUDING THE COVER PAGE

QUESTION 1

1.1 Look at the following concepts. Link these to the terms below to their corresponding statements. Write down only the question number and the symbol, e.g., (3.1) - (a). (10)

TERMINOLOGY	DESCRIPTION
1.1 Pidgin	A. A variety of languages defined by the users' regional and socio-economic origins
1.2 Idiolect	B. Speech varieties associated with particular gender
1.3 Multilingualism	C. People switch from one language code to another for emotional reasons
1.4 Language maintenance	D. Some agencies, such as an academy, has written dictionaries and grammar books to 'fix' the variety so that everyone, who is using it, agrees on what is correct
1.5 Dialect	E. These languages were introduced to countries all over the world during era of colonialism.
1.5 Codification	F. The distance between the speakers (friends, siblings, strangers)
1.7 Social distance	G. aspects of pronunciation which identify where an individual speaker is from, regionally or socially
1.8 Colonial language	H. The continuing use of language in the face of competition from a regionally and socially more powerful language
1.9 Register	I. The use of two or more languages in the same utterance
1.10 Genderlect	J. When two people are talking in one language and other joins them, they switch codes
	K. The variety that carries most prestige and is used by the elite and in formal contexts
	L. When speaking to a friend, you would probably use slang , but speaking to your parents or a teacher, you would use the standardized form of the language
	M. Two distinctly different varieties of the same language are used in the community, with the one seen as the high (or H) variety and the other a low (or L) variety
	N. A set of linguistic items with similar social distribution
	O. A common code developed among people who do not speak each other's language

1.2 Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word or phrase.

(10)

- a. A complex system of communication that uses arbitrary symbols, such as sounds, gestures, or written words, is often used to define the term _____.
- b. A _____ is a group of people who share a common language or variety of language and shared norms for its use.
- c. An individual who is proficient in two languages is considered _____.
- d. The situation where an individual or community knows and uses only one language is called _____.
- e. _____ is the process by which a language is given a uniform form, often involving the selection of a particular dialect as the norm.
- f. Variation in language use by the same speaker depending on the social context is referred to as _____.
- g. When a pidgin becomes the first language of a community and develops a more complex structure, it is called a _____.
- h. _____ occurs when a language is no longer spoken by any living speakers.
- i. An _____ language is designated by a government for official administrative use.
- j. The everyday language spoken by a community, often distinct from formal or colonial languages, is termed _____.

QUESTION 2

2.1 Name three language families in Namibia. Provide two (2) examples each. (10)

2.2 How do the following aspects influence language choice? Provide examples to support your answers. (10)

- (a) The social distance
- (b) The referential scale
- (c) The affective scale
- (d) Formality

QUESTION 3

3.1 Linguistically, male and female speech may differ. Name and explain any five (5) of such differences. (10)

3.2 By drawing on examples from your own speech community, discuss the factors that contribute to bilingualism. (10)

QUESTION 4

4.1 A lingua franca develops to enable people from different language groups to communicate. Discuss the forms of lingua franca you learned in this course. (10)

4.2 National languages serve many functions in a community. List and explain these functions as discussed in this course. (10)

QUESTION 5

5.1 Identify five (5) factors that contribute to language shift. (5)

5.2 Write an essay of approximately 200 words explaining the five criteria used to motivate the choice of the official language in Namibia. (15)

Total= 100 Marks