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KIRIRI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION, 2024/2025 ACADEMIC YEAR
THIRD YEAR, SEMESTER ONE & TWO EXAMINATION
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)
KEN 2310: RESEARCH METHODS IN LINGUISTICS

Date: 13th December 2024

Time: 2.30pm-4.30pm

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

ANSWER QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Using a paragraph of not less than SIX sentences, discuss any area of linguistics and illustrate the use of intext citations and APA references from the context. (6 marks)
- b) "Theory allows us to explain what we see and to figure out how to bring about change." Expound on the link between theory and research. (6 marks)
- c) Explain why it is important for a researcher to sample? (5marks)
- d) "Sampling helps researchers to conduct studies about a large group by using a small portion of the population" Differentiate between systematic sampling and stratified sampling. (4 marks)
- e) Explain the differences between a qualitative and a quantitative study. (4 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Several problems may exist within the sampling frame. Identify any THREE problems and discuss them. (6 marks)
- b) As a researcher in linguistics, shade light on the relevance of any three scopes in research. (6 marks)
- c) "The researcher should construct a measurement scale. All numbers generated by measuring instruments can be placed into any of FOUR categories", describe the following FOUR categories of measurement scale.
 - i) Nominal. (2 marks)
 - ii) Ordinal. (2 marks)
 - iii) Interval. (2 marks)
 - iv) Ratio scale. (2 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Describe how literature review contributes to the formulation of research questions and the overall research process. (6 marks)
- b) Differentiate between the following research methods
 - i) Case study. (4 marks)
 - ii) Survey. (4 marks)
- c) "A good research design minimizes bias and maximizes the reliability of the data collected and analyzed." Discuss any **three** characteristics of a good research design. (6 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Discuss the following data collection tools highlighting both their advantages and disadvantages.
 - i) Observation. (3 marks)
 - ii) Questionnaire. (3 marks)
 - iii) Interview. (3 marks)

- b) Explain any THREE challenges faced by researchers during the sampling process. (3 marks)
- c) Come up with a research topic in linguistics and illustrate a conceptual framework based on the topic, indicating clearly the dependent and the independent variables. (8 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) “Chapter 3 of a linguistic research project explains the research method used in the study.” Briefly explain the following parts found in Chapter 3
 - i) Research design. (2 marks)
 - ii) Population. (2 marks)
 - iii) Instruments. (2 marks)
 - iv) Data collection procedure. (2 marks)
 - v) Pilot – test. (2 marks)
- b) Elucidate on the SIX key steps to be followed in identifying a research problem in linguistics. (6 marks)
- c) Describe four differences between probability and non-probability sampling. (4 marks)