



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
14/16 AHMADU BELLO WAY VICTORIA ISLAND LAGOS
OCTOBER 2013 EXAMINATIONS
School of Arts and Social Sciences

Course Code: ENG331
Course Title: Introduction to Semantics
Credit Unit: (3C)
TIME: 2HRS
INSTRUCTION: ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS

1. (a) What is structural semantics? **(8marks)**
(b) Discuss with copious examples, the sense relation of antonymy and synonymy. **(15 marks)**
2. (a) Discuss the usefulness of pragmatics to the study of meaning? **(10 marks)**
(b) In what ways can pragmatics help you to understand utterances? **(13 marks)**
3. a) Distinguish between collocative meaning and connotative meaning. **(9 marks)**
b) Provide seven examples of each. **(14 marks)**
4. Discuss, with two examples for each point, ways in which the organisation of the message presented in a language can affect meaning. **(23marks)**
5. a) Differentiate between content words and grammatical words. **(8 marks)**
b) Identify fifteen content words and fifteen grammatical words from the passage below. **(15 marks)**

TEENAGE stowaway, Daniel Oikhena, chose a despicable and somewhat suicidal way to "stardom" when he left his father's home in Benin City, Edo State, and sneaked into the tyre compartment of a Lagos-bound aircraft, thinking he was on his way to the United States of America. Unfortunately for Oikhena, the desperate hope of achieving his American Dream was aborted just a few minutes after, when, much to his chagrin, he found himself at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, instead of the USA.

But what is more worrying is that since that infamous trip more than three weeks ago, the stowaway has not ceased to be in the news. Oikhena has suddenly transformed from an anonymous and undisciplined young boy from Benin to an instant newsmaker or celebrity of some sorts. He has met with important personalities, including the Governor of his state, Adams Oshiomhole. While many have tried to excuse his action on the basis of his innocence, others have, sadly, tried to cast him in the mould of a hero; audacious and adventurous. There was even an offer of scholarship from a group – purportedly representing a state governor – that was meant to help him realise his dream of travelling to America.

This should not be so. Celebrating a juvenile delinquent like Oikhenia is a clear testimony of a nation that has utterly lost its moral compass. No doubt, children do make mistakes. Scientists explain how teenagers' immaturity level in the prefrontal cortex area of their brain harms their ability to make decisions, solve problems, or show proper judgment towards situations. As a teenager ages, the prefrontal cortex develops the ability to function, allowing an individual to obtain motor skills. But it is argued that it is also wrong to pretend that every teenager is immature or does not know when he or she is committing a crime. Some teenagers are fully aware of their actions regardless of age, though they may not be in a position to fathom the significance of their crimes.

(Adapted from *The Punch*, September 17, 2013)