



PAN AFRICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

AUGUST 2025 Trimester Exams

COM 101: LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION (Degree,

COMMUNICATION)

ROYSAMBU (DAY)

Time 3hrs.

Instructions: Answer ALL questions in SECTION A and any other THREE questions in SECTION B

SECTION A (10 marks)

1. Answer the question below:

Language is a complex system with unique properties that distinguish it from animal communication. Define language and explain **FOUR** key properties of human language with examples. *(10 marks)*

SECTION B (30 marks) - Answer any THREE of the following questions:

2. Conversation plays a very key role in communication and one has to understand the different tenets of language to hold a good conversation. With that in mind, discuss five key concepts of conversation analysis. *(10 marks)*
3. Illustrate using relevant examples, five ways that show the dynamic and dependent relationship between language and communication. *(10 marks)*
4. Noam Chomsky's theory of innate language acquisition posits that humans are born with a biological capacity for language, known as the Language Acquisition Device (LAD).
 - a) Define the Language Acquisition Device (LAD) and explain its role in first language acquisition according to Chomsky. *(3 marks)*

b) Contrast Chomsky's nativist perspective with Skinner's behaviorist theory of language acquisition, providing two key differences. *(4 marks)*

c) Analyze one strength and one limitation of the LAD theory, using examples from child language development. *(3 marks)*

5. Gender-neutral language promotes inclusivity.

Rewrite **FIVE** gendered expressions from given text samples and justify your edits using contemporary linguistic principles. *(10 marks)*