



# MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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## University Examinations 2024/2025

FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF  
EDUCATION ARTS

### ELI 3101: THEORY OF LITERATURE AND STYLISTICS

DATE: JANUARY 2025

TIME: 2 HOURS

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INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

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#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Highlight any **three functions** of literature. (3 marks)
- b) Explain the difference among the three major types of Rhetoric determined by function according to Aristotle.
  - (i) The deliberative (2 marks)
  - (ii) Judicial/Forensic (2 marks)
  - (iii) Epideictic (2 marks)
- c) Mention the **three** major fundamental methods of **characterization** in literature (3 marks)
- d) Explain one significance of foregrounding in literature. (1 mark)
- e) Differentiate between jargon and slang language. (2 marks)
- f) Explain the meaning of the term **poetic license** as used in poetry. (1 mark)
- g) Highlight two importance of studying theory and history of literature. (2 marks)
- h) Explain the meaning of the following terms as used by Aristotle and Plato.
  - i). Catharsis (1 mark)

ii). Mimesis . (1 mark)

i} Give **two** reasons why literary writers use borrowed words from another language in their literary texts. (2 marks)

j} With at least two examples for each, differentiate the following forms of phonological deviation as used in literature:

(i). Aphesis (2 marks)

(ii) syncope (2 marks)

k). Explain two reasons why writers use metaphors in their literary works. (2 marks)

l}. Mention any two major variables that affect the reader's response to a text according to Emmanuel Ngara (1982:14) (2 marks)

### QUESTION TWO (15 MARKS)

The choice of register depends on one's circumstances of communication. Validate this assertion. (15 Marks)

### QUESTION THREE (15 MARKS)

Critically examine how **Feminist's theory** has influenced the literary work of either Mariam Ba's novella, **So Long a Letter** or Francis Imbuga's play **Aminata** or **The Colour Purple** by Alice Walker. (15 marks)

### QUESTION FOUR (15 MARKS)

Discuss how **Classicism** has influenced African Literature. (15 marks)

### QUESTION FIVE (15 MARKS)

With reference to any literary texts of your own choice differentiate the following three forms of irony as used in literature: verbal irony, dramatic irony, situational irony. Illustrate each answer with at least two examples.