

**BOWEN UNIVERSITY, IWO, OSUN STATE**  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
2019/2020 FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION

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**COURSE TITLE:** HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**COURSE CODE:** ENG 405

**DATE:** TUESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY, 2020

**TIME ALLOWED:** 3 Hours

**INSTRUCTION:** Answer four questions in all. **QUESTION 1 IS COMPULSORY.**

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1. Undertake an exhaustive discussion of diachronic linguistics, its principal concerns and its methods of inquiry. **(25 marks)**
  
2. Using examples of WOTY (word of the year) and/or other 'trending/trended' words, explain some of the dimensions of lexical change in contemporary English. **(15 marks)**
  
3. Discuss the features of Middle English in terms of spelling, pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary. **(15 marks)**
  
4. Explain and exemplify the concept of language typology. **(15 marks)**
  
5. Paying particular attention to spelling, grammar and vocabulary, distinguish between British and American English. **(15 marks)**
  
6. Discuss the following:
  - a. Australian English.
  - b. New Zealand English.
  - c. South African English.**(15 marks)**