

## First Semester Exam in TL

### Model Answers

#### Exercise 1:

a- Identify and explain two characteristics of romantic literature. (4pts)

- 1- Expression of emotions: For romantic writers emotions are more important than reason and formal rules. In this extract, the protagonist experiences different kinds of feelings: love, “I loved the old man”, anxiety, “And now a new anxiety seized me—the sound would be heard by a neighbor!”, and fear, “some minutes longer I refrained and stood still. But the beating grew louder, louder! I thought the heart must burst.”. **2 pts**
- 2- Madness: The narrator admits that he is so nervous and he articulates his self defense against madness. However, his feelings towards the old man are contradicted displaying a tension between love and hatred. He admits that he loved him and he did not want his gold. The reason why he killed the old man was his obsession with his eye—totally irrational, “I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye! yes, it was this! One of his eyes resembled that of a vulture—a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees—very gradually—I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye for ever”. **2pts**

b- Each of the underlined expressions includes a figure of speech. Explain. (3pts)

- 1- His room was as black as pitch is a simile. The narrator compares the darkness of the room with pitch using “as”. **1.5 pts**
- 2- Death, in approaching him, had stalked with his black shadow before him, and enveloped the victim is a personification. Here, death is personified and given consciousness and intention as well as the ability to approach its victim and cast shadow upon his body.

#### Exercise 2:

a- Identify and explain two characteristics of realist literature. (4pts)

- 1- The plot is based on practical and ethical problems. Okonkwo determined to become wealthy and powerful in spite of his father’s reputation. The latter was a lazy loafer though he lived in a community that estimated man’s hard work, “Fortunately, among these people a man was judged according to his worth and not according to the worth of his father”. **2pts**
- 2- The protagonist is neither very good nor very bad: Okonkwo ruled his household with a heavy hand. He’s furious and violent but deep in his heart he was not cruel. He was rather haunted by his father’s bad reputation, “Okonkwo ruled his household with a heavy hand (...). His wives, especially the youngest, lived in perpetual fear of his fiery temper, and so did his little children. Perhaps down in his heart Okonkwo was not a cruel man.” **2pts**

- b- In this passage, physical appearance and action contribute to direct and indirect characterization. Provide a brief characterization for Okonkwo taking into consideration direct and indirect information. (2pts)

Okonkwo was a great wrestler. He was tall and huge, and his bushy eyebrows and wide nose gave him a very severe look. He breathed heavily. When he walked, his heels hardly touched the ground. He had a slight **stammer** and whenever he was angry and could not get his words out quickly enough, he would use his **fists**. He had no patience with unsuccessful men.

He is successfully self made, powerful and well-respected in his clan. He's able to support his family, has three wives. Okonkwo's desire to be strong and wealthy is fueled by a deeply internalized fear of becoming feminine like his father. As a result, He misunderstands masculinity which becomes for him what his father was not. He is emotionally unavailable for his family. He is violent, impatient, nervous and unable to communicate with others when he gets angry. **2pts**

**Exercise 3:** In Kate Chopin's "A Pair of Silk Stockings" certain **social** and **psychological** motives merge to display the protagonist's conflict against herself. Explain this idea in a short paragraph (of no more than 12 lines). **(6pts)**

**The following points should be taken into consideration**

- Indentation **0.25pt**
- Punctuation **0.25pt**
- Topic sentence **1pt**
- Concluding sentence **1pt**
- Content analysis and correct language **3.5pts**