

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER, JULY 2005

- TITLE OF PAPER** : **INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE**
- COURSE CODE** : **AL100/IDE-AL1P1**
- TIME ALLOWED** : **THREE (3) HOURS**
- INSTRUCTIONS** :
1. **ANSWER SEVEN (7) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 2. **ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A.**
 3. **ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B.**
 4. **ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM EACH OF THE SECTION C, D, AND E.**
 5. **ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**
 6. **ANSWERS SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY ILLUSTRATED, BRIEF AND PRECISE. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS SHOULD BE USED WHEREVER APPROPRIATE.**
 7. **MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING AND ILL-FORMED SENTENCES.**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SECTION A

PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

Answer **TWO** questions only.

QUESTION 1

Give (with examples) five phonological processes of conditioned sound changes.

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

What are the three traditional features used to specify a vowel sound. Give two examples for each feature.

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

Give the phonetic symbol for each of the following sounds with an illustration of the use of the sound in a word.

- (a) voiceless bilabial stop
- (b) voiced bilabial nasal stop
- (c) voiceless labio-dental fricative
- (d) voiced alveo-palatal affricate
- (e) voiced velar nasal

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

Discuss four problems or disadvantages associated with spelling if it were to be used in phonetics.

[10 MARKS]

SECTION B
MORPHOLOGY

Answer **BOTH** questions.

QUESTION 5

With examples, explain the following:

- (b) Blending
- (c) Backformation
- (d) Conversion
- (e) Clipping
- (f) Acronymy

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 6

What is the difference between inflectional morphology and derivational morphology? Give two examples for each case.

[10 MARKS]

SECTION C
SYNTAX

Answer only **One** Question in this Section

QUESTION 7

With the aid of examples, explain any FIVE of the following syntactic terms.

- (a) Deep Structure
- (b) transformational rules
- (c) c- command
- (d) surface structure
- (e) immediate dominance
- (f) hierarchical relationship
- (g) sister node
- (h) daughter node

[20 MARKS]

QUESTION 8

Draw both the Deep Structure and Surface Structure of the following sentences.

- (a) Who was given the dress by Mary?
 (b) Did they see the boat?
 (c) The young boy was given the book by this teacher.

[20 MARKS]

QUESTION 9

- (a) With the aid of examples, explain what a transformational rule is? [5 marks]

- (b) Draw a tree structure that will conform to the following PS rules and then insert appropriate lexical items.

- i) S → NP Aux VP
 NP → Det N
 VP → V NP PP
 PP → P NP

[8 marks]

- ii) S → NP Aux VP
 NP → N
 VP → V NP NP
 PP → P NP

[7 marks]

[20 MARKS]

SECTION D**SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS**

Answer only One Question in this Section.

QUESTION 10

- (a) How is contradiction related to antonyms. Give appropriate examples to illustrate your answer. [5 marks]
- (b) How is contradiction different from antonyms? Give appropriate examples to illustrate your answer. [5 marks]
- (c) With the aid of examples, discuss the THREE different types of antonyms. [10 marks]

[20 MARKS]

QUESTION 11

- (a) What is meant by the term 'deixis'? [2 marks]
- (b) Name the three types of deixis, giving appropriate examples to illustrate your points. [3 marks]
- (c) Discuss any THREE of the Gricean Principles. [9 marks]
- (d) Consider the sentence below and then answer the questions that follow.

When did your mother come home?

- i) Give two presuppositions of this statement. Make sure that one of them is existential. [2 marks]

Using one of the presuppositions you identified in (i) above give a response that would:

- ii) deny the presupposition [1 mark]
- iii) acknowledge the presupposition [1 mark]
- iv) restate the presupposition [1 mark]
- v) question the presupposition [1 mark]

QUESTION 12

Seemingly no adequate definition of semantics has been given so far. With the aid of examples from English discuss FOUR of such definitions and show shortcomings associated with each definition. [20 MARKS]

SECTION E**MISCELLANEOUS**

Answer only One Question.

QUESTION 13

Language change may be manifested at different levels. What are these levels? Give an example for each. [20 MARKS]

QUESTION 14

With examples, give five different varieties of language. [20 MARKS]

QUESTION 15

- (a) What is meant by 'Critical Period Hypothesis? [2 marks]
 - (b) Briefly explain what happens during this time. [3 marks]
 - (c) Briefly discuss two studies that support the Critical Period Hypothesis and two other studies that counter the Critical Period Hypothesis. [15 marks]
- [20 MARKS]**

QUESTION 16

- (a) With the aid of examples, explain the difference between a speech recognizer and a speech synthesizer. [4 marks]
 - (b) Discuss the three different types of speech recognizers. [9 marks]
 - (c) What is a parser? [2 marks]
 - (d) With the aid of examples, explain how a language parser should work. [5 marks]
- [20 MARKS]**

QUESTION 17

- (a) What do we mean by 'child language acquisition'? [5 marks]
 - (b) With the aid of examples, discuss four stages in the development of language acquisition of a child. [6 marks]
- [20 MARKS]**