UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES

FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER, MAY 2005

TITLE OF PAPER	:	INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE
COURSE CODE	:	AL100
TIME ALLOWED	:	THREE (3) HOURS
INSTRUCTIONS	:	1. ANSWER SIX (6) QUESTIONS IN ALL.

2. ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN SECTION A.

3. ANSWER ONE (1) QUESTION FROM EACH OF THE OTHER SECTIONS: (SECTION B,C,D,E).

4. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.

5. ANSWERS SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY ILLUSTRATED, BRIEF AND PRECISE. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS SHOULD BE USED WHEREVER APPROPRIATE.

6. 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 BOTH questions.

QUESTION 1

Give two features that the following speech sounds share:

(g) [ʃ] AND [ʒ]   _____   _____

(h) [θ] AND [f]   _____   _____

(i) [f] AND [v]   _____   _____

(j) [p] AND [b]   _____   _____

(k) [k] AND [g]   _____   _____

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

Study carefully the pairs of English words below. Copy out each pair with its phonetic transcription, thereafter, determine whether the two words in each case constitute a minimal pair. Mark with a tick (V) each minimal pair and with a cross (X) those words which do not form a minimal pair.

(a) cap   (d) This   (g) Van
     cab   These   Fan

(b) Fan   (e) Fight   (h) Course
     vane   Fright   Cause

(c) Vein   (f) This   (i) Fan
     Vane   Sin   Fane

(j) Flight
     Fright

[10 MARKS]

SECTION B

MORPHOLOGY

Answer ONE question only

QUESTION 3

Study the words listed below and do the task which follows:

2.	Pets	8.	Across	15.	Brighten
3.	Intrude	9.	On	16.	Bigger
4.	Controvert	10.	Unhappy	17.	Across
5.	You	11.	Preacher	18.	Protrude
6.	Enlarge	12.	Is	19.	Annoyingly
7.	Kicked	13.	Before	20.	Mismanagement
8.	They	14.	Management		

(b) Divide the words listed above into their morphemes.

(c) From the morphemes you identified in (a), give the following:

   (i) five derivational morphemes
   (ii) five free root morphemes
   (iii) two examples of forms which constitute a syllable, a morpheme and a word at the same time.
   (iv) Two bound root morphemes. **[20 MARKS]**

QUESTION 4

Study the forms provided below and do the task which follows:

1.	Gentry	8.	Gantry	15.	Nendrine
2.	Mbinion	9.	Nglanism	16.	Soft
3.	Sost	10.	Stlung	17.	Splatty
4.	Most	11.	Guide	18.	Ntafty
5.	Sflout	12.	Mamend	19.	Sgudy
6.	Mest	13.	Tandly	20.	Ndrubby
7.	Shline	14.	Spreave		

Copy out all the forms given above into three different lists as follows:

(a)   Those words which exist in English
(b)   Possible English words. Explain why?
(c)   Those forms which do not exist and would never possibly exist in English. Explain why?

[20 marks]

SECTION C

SYNTAX

Answer only One Question in this Section

QUESTION 4

With the aid of examples, explain any FIVE of the following:

(i)   Phrase structure rules
(ii)   Word order
(iii)   subcategorization
(iv)   prescriptive grammar
(v)   immediate constituent
(vi)   tree diagram
(vii)   lexical insertion rules
(viii) transformational rules   **[20 MARKS]**

QUESTION 5

Draw a tree structure for each of the following sentences:

(i)   Jesus wept   [3 marks]
(ii)   John gave Mary the book.   [5 marks]
(iii)   I put the dress in the top drawer   [6 marks]
(iv)   The beautiful girl will see the old man   [5 marks]

QUESTION 6

(a)   With the aid of examples explain the differences between a Deep Structure and a Surface structure.   [5 marks]

(b) Draw tree structures that conform to the following PS Rules:

i)   S   → NP Aux VP
       NP → Det Adj   N
       VP → V NP NP

[7 marks]

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

[8 marks]
[20 MARKS]

QUESTION 7

a) Draw the deep structure of the following sentences.

i)   Did John see the old man?   [5 marks]
ii)   The old man was given a book by Peter   [6 marks]
iii)   Who gave you this useless key?   [5 marks]
iv)   John gave the boy a book.   [4 marks]

[20 MARKS]

SECTION D

SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Answer only <u>One</u> Question in this Section.

QUESTION 8

Semantics also deals with meaning relations between words and sentences. With the aid of examples discuss TWO semantic relations at word level and THREE semantic relations at sentence level. **[20 MARKS]**

QUESTION 9

(a) What is meant by theta roles?   [2 marks]

(b) From the sentences below identify (i) the arguments and (ii) the thematic roles each of these arguments plays in the sentences.

a)   John killed a snake with a stick.
b)   The book was found in the closet by Jasmin.
c)   Mary gave Musa the money.   [15 marks]

QUESTION 10

(a)   Name the two types of speech acts.   [1 mark]

(b)   With the aid of examples, explain both the informative and performative types of direct
        speech acts.   [4 marks]

(c)   Consider the following sentence and then answer the questions that follow:

        I command you to stop seeing my daughter.

        i)   What is the locution of the statement?   [1 mark]
        ii)   What is one of its illocutions?   [1 mark]
        iii)   What is one of its possible perlocutions?   [1 mark]
        iv)   What kind of direct speech act it this?   [1 mark]
        v)   What is one of its presuppositions?   [1 mark]

(d)   Using the sentence given in (c) above;

        i)   discuss four characteristics of this kind of direct speech act.   [4 marks]
        ii)   explain THREE conditions that would make this statement felicitous?   [6 marks]
                                                                                     [25 MARKS

SECTION E

MISCELLANEOUS

Answer only ONE Question from this Section.

QUESTION 11

(a)   What is meant by the term 'lateralization?   [1 mark]

(b)   With the aid of examples, discuss FIVE functions of the brain that take place in each of
        the two hemispheres of the brain.   [10 marks]

(c)   What is meant by 'language centres'?   [1 mark]

(d)   Name the three language centres of the brain.   [3 marks]

(e)   With the aid of examples, explain what happens in each of the three language centres of
        the brain.   [5 marks]
                                                                                     [20 MARKS]

QUESTION 12

(a)   What is computational linguistics?   [2 marks]

(b)   With the aid of examples, discuss the FOUR sub fields of computational linguistics.
                                                                              [8 marks]

(c)   Explain why it is still impossible to produce an automatic translation machine?[10 marks]
                                                                              [20 MARKS]

QUESTION 13

(a)   What is meant by 'animal communication'?   [2 marks]

(b)   Explain two reasons why animals need to communicate with each other.   [6 marks]

(c)   With the aid of examples, discuss fully the communication of **either** the monkey **or** the bee.

                                                                              [12 marks]
                                                                              [20 MARKS]

QUESTION 14

Give and explain five causes of Language Change.   **[20 MARKS]**

QUESTION 15

(a)   What is the difference between pidgin and creole?

(b)   What is the difference between taboo and Euphemism?   **[20 MARKS]**