

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2005

- TITLE OF PAPER :** LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN LANGUAGE I:
(TRADITIONAL SISWATI GRAMMAR)
- CODE OF PAPER :** AL201/IDE-AL201
- TIME ALLOWED :** TWO (2) HOURS
- INSTRUCTIONS :**
1. ANSWER FIVE (5) QUESTIONS IN ALL.
 2. ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.
 3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS SHOULD BE USED WHEREVER APPROPRIATE.
 4. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.
 5. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.

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

SECTION A**[ANSWER ONE QUESTION UNDER THIS SECTION]****SISWATI PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY****QUESTION 1**

Posit the bilabial consonants that are found in siSwati and include a labiovelar glide; state the distinctive features that may be used to differentiate these bilabials.

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 2

With the aid of examples, briefly discuss four devices that are used in siSwati in order to break the sequence of vowels within indigenous words.

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 3

Given the fact that the basic noun prefix of class /14/ is bu-, with the aid of the given words, discuss why nouns such as tjwala "booze" and tjani "grass" are said to belong to this class.

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 4

Comment on the appropriateness or inappropriateness of the following siSwati features which are based on the place of articulation.

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-------------|-----|
| a) | - bondzebembili | (bilabials) | (5) |
| b) | - bongwacalwangeni | (palatals) | (5) |
| c) | - bongwacalakanya | (velars) | (5) |
| d) | - bongwacabatfwa | (chicks) | (5) |

TOTAL MARKS = 20]

SECTION B**[ANSWER ONE QUESTION UNDER THIS SECTION]****NOUNS AND PRONOUNS****QUESTION 5**

With the aid of examples from siSwati, list the types of nouns (content) that are found in class 7/8 according to Taljaard, Khumalo and Bosch (1991:16-18, 22).

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 6

List the absolute pronoun for all the classes including first and second person, using the three morpheme analysis.

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 7

You are given three sets of noun prefixes that can be said to belong to class 9/10, if the nominal stem is defined as the portion of the noun that remains the same after using the singular or plural prefix. With the aid of examples from siSwati, discuss how you would identify the synchronic set of prefixes.

- a) \emptyset - / t -
- b) i - / ti -
- c) iN - / tiN -

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 8

List the demonstrative pronoun third position with three syllable and three morphemes and briefly discuss its structure. Exclude first and second person. The demonstrative must end in -ana.

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

SECTION C**[ANSWER ONE QUESTION UNDER THIS SECTION]****VERBS AND COPULATIVES****QUESTION 9**

With the aid of examples, discuss the classification of verb radicals based on the feature [syllable].
[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 10

With the aid of examples, discuss at least five contexts in which passive sentences can be used.
[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 11

Using one example under each class, list copulatives that are derived from each noun class giving the singular and plural versions of the copulative.

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 12

Give one example of a verb that has the following characteristics:

- a) - commanding one person.
- b) - with the applied extension.
- c) - with the neuter extension.
- d) - with the causative extension.
- e) - with the reciprocal extension.
- f) - with the passive extension.
- g) - with the intensive extension.
- h) - with the dispersive extension.
- i) - with the contactive extension.
- j) - with the dispersive extension.
- k) - with the reversive extension.
- l) - with the perfective extension.
- m) - with the extensive extension.
- n) - with the stative extension.
- o) - with the stative positional extension.
- p) - with the perfect stem.
- q) - a verb in the positive, present tense progressive.
- r) - commanding more than one person.
- s) - commanding with an object concord, one or more people being commanded.
- t) - verb that does not use the simple extension a.

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

SECTION D**[ANSWER ONE QUESTION UNDER THIS SECTION]****QUALIFICATIVES AND ADVERBS****QUESTION 13**

With the aid of examples from siSwati discuss the contexts in which the “Descriptive Possessive with Noun Base”, according to Doke (1927: 121-122), can be used.

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 14

With the aid of examples from siSwati, discuss the differences that may be observed when the adjective is used attributively and predicatively.

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 15

- (a) According to Doke (1927:233-234), there are certain morphophonemic changes that are involved when locative adverbs are formed by using the circumfix se---+ N-ini (using it with nouns).

Give the words that have undergone these various morphophonemic changes. [12]

- (b) Doke (1927:234-235) also discusses two types of exceptions from the morphophonemic changes. With the aid of examples from siSwati briefly discuss these exceptions indicating how you can explain them. [8]

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 16

List the adjectival concords for all the classes including those of first and second person.

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

SECTION E**[ANSWER ONE QUESTION UNDER THIS SECTION]****MISCELLANEOUS****QUESTION 17**

With the aid of examples from siSwati, discuss the mechanisms that siSwati used in borrowing nouns from non-Bantu languages. (4 x 5 = 20)

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 18

With the aid of examples from siSwati discuss five reasons why ideophones are said to be “violating” the rules of the language. (4 x 5 = 20)

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 19

When nouns are conjoined and used as a subject then there is “gender conflict”. Define this expression and, with the help of examples from siSwati, discuss how siSwati solves the “gender conflict”.

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]

QUESTION 20

With the aid of examples from siSwati, discuss how vocatives can be formed.

[TOTAL MARKS = 20]