

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

TITLE OF PAPER : TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE II AND MODERN LITERATURE IN NGUNI (SISWATI AND ZULU) II

CODE OF PAPER : AL303/IDE-AL303 (M)

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS :**
1. ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS IN ALL, CHOOSING ONE FROM EACH SECTION.
 2. EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A SEPARATE PAGE.
 3. IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER, THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE ANSWER WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

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

SECTION A:
TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE II
(Prose Narratives: FOLKTALES)

QUESTION 1

Turn over to page 3 here (next page) and read the oral narrative on that page very carefully. Do you think that it was perhaps told by someone who is unfamiliar with the oral narrative tradition of Southern Africa?

Discuss your observations, using as your model the narrative “Intfombatana Nelibhubesi”- “The girl and the Lion”, from the Sinkayinkayi collection, pin-pointing areas where the narrative under consideration seems to depart from the known trends of our tradition. Your discussion should concern itself with theme presentation in the Southern African oral narrative tradition.

[25 marks]

QUESTION 2

To what extent can it be argued that the oral narratives in which women and girls (or female babies sometimes) are featured as central characters, represent the voice of the oppressed? Refer to at least three narratives in your answer.

[25 marks]

QUESTION 3

Three “parallel-image sets” are featured in the structure of the Sesotho oral narrative about the Kumongoe tree which produced “floods” of delicious milk which the children of the home (a boy and a girl) vandalised. Discuss in detail how the central themes of this craftily constructed narrative are effectively projected with the use of such a structural design.

[25 marks]

QUESTION 4

Discuss the usefulness of traditional/oral literature in the advancement of modern literary forms, basing your observations on the short story entitled “Inchaphalubisi” by S.T. Mkhonza (Ingcamu, 1986), taking due account of the folktale elements in that modern literary work.

[25 marks]

KWESUKASUKELA (once upon a time) ...

Never make promises which you will regret

Once upon a time there was a woman who lived in a village and she was pregnant. She would wake up every morning and go and weed her fields which were far from her homestead.

One day she went to her fields as usual and a big snake came face to face with her. The snake talked to her and said it was hungry. The woman begged the snake not to swallow her. She said to the snake: "As you can see I am pregnant and when I give birth I will give you my child to swallow."

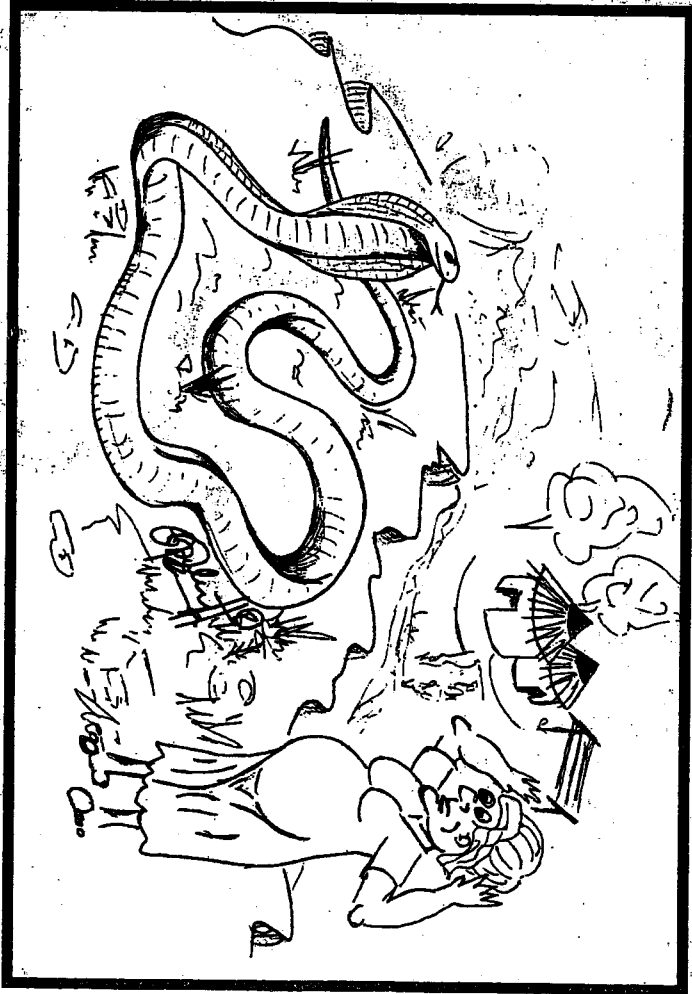
The snake got excited and asked the woman when she was giving birth. The snake knew

that the child would be delicious when seeing a log, mistaking it compared to the woman since it would be fresh and tender unlike the woman who was old and had hard bones. The snake then warned the woman to keep her promise because if she lied, it will swallow both the child and her. Thereafter, the snake disappeared. The woman was so shaken that she picked up her hoe and went home since she was too weak to do any weeding. On her way home she would jump aside

As you can see I am pregnant and when I give birth I will give you my child to swallow

of the promise that she assured the snake to give it the child kept

prepared herself to go to the fields to weed. The thought and the next day she prepared herself to go to the fields to weed. The thought and the next day she prepared herself to go to the fields to weed. The thought and the next day she prepared herself to go to the fields to weed.



coming. On the other hand, she also thought that she cannot break the promise since something terrible could happen to her.

She went into her fields and when she got there found that the snake was waiting for her. The snake was really excited to

see the woman and her child. "Thank you for being honest. Can I have the child now since I am very hungry," said the snake. The woman passed her beautiful child to the snake and the woman cried after seeing her child being swallowed by the snake. The snake had been hun-

gry for days and complained that it still felt hungry even after swallowing the child. It turned to the woman and said, "I am still hungry." The woman replied, "You might as well eat me since already I have lost my beautiful child." Without hesitation, the snake swallowed the woman as well.

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SECTION B**MODERN LITERATURE IN NGUNI II**
(SISWATI AND ZULU)**QUESTION 5: THE NOVEL**Thoko E. Mgabhi, **Itawuphuma Ehlatsini**Discuss the handling of Tholakele as a tragic character in the novel Itawuphuma Ehlatsini.

[25 marks]

QUESTION 6: POETRYC.T. Msimang (ed.), **Izimbongi Izolo Nanamuhla - Vol. 1**

Carefully read the extract quoted below and then do the following:

- (a) Give the title of the poem from which the extract comes. [1 mark]
- (b) Comment elaborately on language usage in the extract, focusing on four (4) images that in your opinion aptly capture the theme of the poem. [16 marks]
- (c) Pick any other two (2) images from the unquoted parts of the poem and discuss their effectiveness in the projection of the theme. [8 marks]

Undlela ziyaqonsa zifuze ezentab' iEverest.
 Umzila ungushishiliza ngokubashelelisa,
 Ngokushelelisa oNomavila nawo Bhocobala.
 Ummango okhwelwa kuphela ngezikhwepha,
 ngokukhwelwa uSikhuthali noSikhuthazeli,
 Nabo bathi bethi congco bebe bejuluke phici;
 Ubaxoshise ngemithantikazi enonile bakleze,
 Ubanqumele iziqu zeminyezane bagaxe.

[25 marks]

QUESTION 7: THE SHORT STORY

Zodwa Motsa (ed.), **Khulumani Sive**

“Lendlela labangemukela ngayo angiyitsandzi mpela mpela. Bekufanele ngitsi ngichamuka nje ngibakhandze sebashaye luhele ngalapha nangalapha kwemgwaco bashaye isaluthi Ngabe ngingubani kantsi mine? Khuluma Siseko!”

(From “Babi Labantfu” by Thoko E. Mgabhi)

Discuss how Mgabhi has effectively used the technique of “caricature” to achieve the theme of the story.

[25 marks]

QUESTION 8: DRAMA

S.M. Mkhombe, **Siphashaphasha**

This play is heavily flawed by elements of melodrama, proving Mkhombe to be an unseasoned dramatist. Discuss with close reference to the text.

[25 marks]