

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

- TITLE OF PAPER** : **INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS (WESTERN AND BANTU)**
- COURSE CODE** : **AL401/IDE-AL4P2**
- TIME ALLOWED** : **THREE (3) HOURS**
- INSTRUCTIONS** :
1. ANSWER FIVE (5) QUESTIONS IN ALL.
  2. ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A AND THREE (3) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B.
  3. ALL QUESTIONS HAVE EQUAL MARKS.
  4. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS SHOULD BE USED WHEREVER APPROPRIATE.
  5. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.
  6. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.

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

**SECTION A**

**WESTERN**

**QUESTION 1**

The causes of language change may be grouped into three categories according to the basis on which they are founded. Name the three categories.

**QUESTION 2**

Name the three phases (each phase with its weaknesses) which the study of language passed through before it was established as a true science.

**QUESTION 3**

Name two shapes of vowel systems that are found in the world's languages.

**QUESTION 4**

List and briefly explain the three types of modifications which constitute morphological change.

**SECTION B:**

**BANTU**

**QUESTION 1**

Name three tendencies that make it possible to determine relationships between given languages.

**QUESTION 2**

Proto-Bantu and Ur-Bantu had no long vowels and no glides. Briefly explain what triggered the emergence of each of these classes of sounds in modern languages.

**QUESTION 3**

Name the two commonest verbal suffixes in Bantu, and state the grammatical function associated with each.

**QUESTION 4**

- (a) What is meant by 'True Adjectives' in Bantu Languages?
- (b) What morphemes constitute a 'True Adjective'?

**QUESTION 5**

Swadesh (1955) discussed guidelines for the preparation of word lists under six heads. Name them.

**QUESTION 6**

Name the commonest five sound changes involving consonants that have taken place in modern Bantu Languages during their development from proto-Bantu.