UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2006

TITLE OF PAPER : INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

COURSE CODE : AL00 / IDE-AL100

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS : 1. ANSWER SEVEN (7) QUESTIONS IN ALL

2. ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN SECTION A AND B.

3. ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM THE REST OF THE SECTIONS (I.E. SECTION C, D, AND 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 __any two__ Questions from this Section.

QUESTION 1

Answer by <u>true</u> or <u>false</u> the following statements.

a) Spelling and phonetic symbols are one and the same thing.

b) In the word 'knot' the letter k is not pronounced. This means it represents no speech sound in this word.

c) There are two ways or methods that can be used in studying phonetics.

d) The letters <u>th</u> in the words <u>this</u> and <u>thin</u> represent the same speech sounds.

e) Articulatory Phonetics is the study of physical properties of speech sounds.

f) In the word <u>use</u> there is a speech sound that is not represented by a letter.

g) Acoustic phonetics is the study of the perception of speech sounds.

h) Phonetic symbols represent the speech sounds.

i) Speech sounds refer to any sound.

j) Continuous speech cannot be analyzed into individual speech sounds.

k) Auditory phonetics is the study of how speech sounds are heard or perceived.

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

Give two features that the following pairs of speech sounds share:

a) [s] and [z]

b) [k] and [g]

c) [θ] and [ɚ]

d) [f] and [v]

e) [ʧ] and [ʤ]

<div align="right">**[10 MARKS]**</div>

QUESTION 3

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

a) voiced bilabial stop

b) voiceless palatal affricate.

c) voiced labio-dental fricative

d) voiced bilabial aspirated stop

e) voiceless aspirated alveolar.

<div align="right">**[10 MARKS]**</div>

QUESTION 4

Study carefully the data provided below taken from colloquial Spanish, and then do the tasks which follow. (Data taken from Finegan and Besnier 1989: 81)

a)	izla	'island'	i)	espaldo	'back'
b)	fuersa	'force'	j)	ciste	'joke''
c)	peskodo	'fish'	k)	eski	'ski'
d)	muskulo	'muscle'	l)	riezgo	'risk'
e)	sin	'without'	m)	fiskal	'fiscal'
f)	rasko	'scratch'	n)	rezvalor	'to slip'
g)	resto	'remember'	o)	razgo	'feature'
h)	mizmo	'same'	p)	beizbol	'baseball'

i) Are [s] and [z] separate phonemes of Spanish or they are allophones of a single phoneme?

ii) If they are different phonemes support your answer. If they are allophones of the same phoneme state the rule that specifies their distribution.

<div align="right">**[10 MARKS]**</div>

MORPHOLOGY

Answer any two Questions from this Section

QUESTION 5

Study the English words given below:

a)	pasted	f)	boyhood
b)	lover	g)	singing
c)	illegal	h)	management
d)	uncover	i)	longer
e)	drives	j)	quickly

i)   Divide each word into morphemes

ii)   Indicate the meanings or grammatical function of each morpheme.

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 6

Study the class 15 siSwati nouns given below:

a)	kubona	'seeing'
b)	kudla	'eating'
c)	kosa	'roasting'
d)	kwakha	'building'
e)	kwenta	'doing'

Do the tasks which follow:

i)   Write down the allomorphs of the class 15 prefix found in the data above.

ii)   State the distribution of the allomorphs you identified in (i) above.

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 7

Study the words listed below:

1.	they	8.	across	14.	brighten
2.	enlarge	9.	unhappy	15.	illegal
3.	you	10.	on	16.	bigger
4.	kicked	11.	preacher	17.	protrude
5.	pets	12.	is	18.	annoyingly
6.	controvert	13.	before	19.	mismanagement
7.	intruder			20.	unfortunately

a) Divide the words listed above into their morphemes.

b) From the morphemes you identified in (a) above give the following:

i) Five derivational morphemes

ii) Three examples of forms which constitute a syllable, a morpheme and a word at the same time.

iii) two bound root morphemes.

[10 MARKS]

SECTION C

SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Answer only ONE Question from this Section

QUESTION 8

a)   H.P. Grice formulated a set of Cooperative Principles which underline language use.

    i)   Name each of these principles   (2)

    ii)   With the aid of examples explain any **TWO** of these principles.   (8)

b)   i)   What does the term antonyms mean?   (1)

    ii)   With the aid of examples discuss fully the **THREE** types of antonyms (9)

[20 MARKS]

QUESTION 9

a)   Consider the sentence below and then answer the questions that follow.

    I warn you to meet me here tomorrow afternoon.

    i)   What kind of direct speech is this? Why do you say so?   (1)

    ii)   Give **TWO** conditions that would make this sentence felicitous.   (2)

    iii)   What is the locution of the statement?   (1)

    iv)   What is one of its illocution?   (1)

    v)   What is one of its perlocution?   (1)

    vi)   Give all deictic expressions used in the statement above and name the type of each one of them.   (6)

b)   With the aid of examples explain the similarities and differences between **TWO** of the following sets of concepts

    i)   entailment and paraphrases

    ii)   contradiction and antonyms

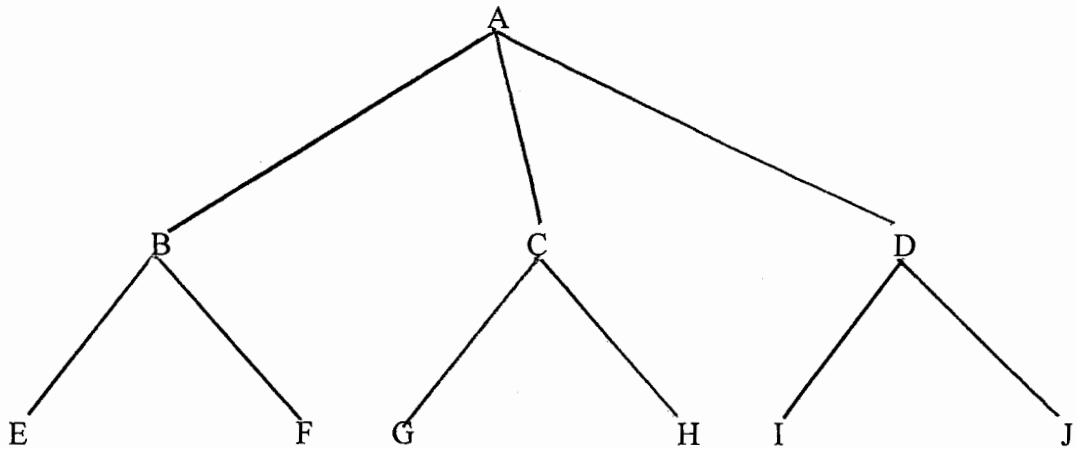   iii)   polysemy and ambiguity   (8)

[20 MARKS]

SYNTAX

Answer __only__ __ONE__ Question from this Section

QUESTION 10

a)   Consider the following diagram and then answer the questions that follow

i)   List all the nodes that are dominated by A   (4.5)

ii)   List the nodes that are sisters to D   (1)

iii)   List the nodes that are c-commanded by B   (3)

iv)   List the nodes that are immediately dominated by A   (1.5)

v)   Name the daughter nodes of C   (1)

vi)   With the aid of examples explain the following concepts

i)   subcategorization   (3)

ii)   c-command   (2)

iii)   hierarchical relationship   (2)

iv)   precedence relationship   (2)

QUESTION 11

a) With the aid of examples explain the difference between a deep structure and a surface structure (4)

b) The following two sentences are ambiguous.

SENTENCES: *The police shot the suspect with a machine gun*

Young men and girls went to the party.

i) Write down the different meanings associated with each one of them (2)

ii) Write down a tree structure diagram that will correctly reflect each of the meanings you have identified (i) above. (12)

[20 MARKS]

SECTION E

MISCELLANEOUS

Answer only ONE Question from this Section

QUESTION 12

a) With the aid of examples draw and name the physical structure of the brain. (5)

b) Discuss fully any two language centres in terms of their function (10)

c) Discuss the aphasia associated with each of the language centres you have discussed in (b) above. (5)

[20 MARKS]

QUESTION 13

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

ii) What is the difference between taboo and euphemism?

b) Give and explain five causes of language change

[20 MARKS]

QUESTION 14

a)   With explanation give five design features of human language.

b)   What is the difference between human language and animal communication.

[20 MARKS]

QUESTION 15

a)   Explain in your own words why early automatic translation exercises were considered as *language in garbage out*. (5)

b)   With the aid of examples discuss how indexing and concordance work.   (15)

[20 MARKS]