

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 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

Give (with examples) five phonological processes of conditioned sound change.

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

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

- a) voiceless labio-dental fricative
- b) voiced velar nasal
- c) voiced alveo-palatal affricate
- d) voiceless bilabial stop
- e) voiced bilabial nasal stop.

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

Discuss four problems or disadvantages associated with spelling if it were to be used in phonetics.

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

What are the three traditional features used to specify a vowel sound. Give two examples for each feature.

[10 MARKS]

SECTION B

MORPHOLOGY

Answer both Questions in this Section

QUESTION 5

What is the difference between inflectional morphology and derivational morphology. Give two examples for each case.

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 6

With examples explain the following;

- a) blending
- b) acronymy
- c) backformation
- d) clipping
- e) conversion.

SECTION C

SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Answer only one Question from this Section.

QUESTION 7

- a) The meaning of meaning has been associated with a number of semantic concepts. Discuss fully any **THREE** of the following concepts in relation to how far each one of them goes in defining what meaning is, and also show the shortcomings of each one of them.

- i) Referential Theory of Meaning
- ii) Intention and Extension
- iii) Mentalist Theory of Meaning
- iv) Semantic Feature Theory of meaning

(15)

- b) Consider the following sentence and then answer the questions that follow

"I warn you never to eat that rotten apple."

- i) What kind of direct speech act is this? Why do you say so? (1)
- ii) Using the above sentence as an example explain four characteristics of this kind of speech act. (4)

[20 MARKS]

QUESTION 8

- a) Give a brief answer to all the following questions

- i) With the aid of examples define semantics (5)
- ii) With the aid of examples define pragmatics (5)
- iii) What is meant by the term presupposition? (2)

- b) Basing your response on the given statement answer the following questions

STATEMENT: *It was John who stole your car.*

- i) Give two presuppositions derived from this statement (2)
- ii) Give a response to this statement that would:
- deny the presupposition
 - acknowledge the presupposition
 - question the presupposition. (6)

[20 MARKS]

SECTION D

SYNTAX

Answer only one Question from this Section.

QUESTION 9

- a) Write both the **DEEP** structures of the following sentences.
- i) Where was the old car found by the police? (4)
 - ii) Did the teacher not pin the list up? (7)
- b) With the aid of examples explain any **THREE GOALS** of syntax. (9)

QUESTION 10

- a) With the aid of examples define what is meant by the following:
- i) Lexical insertion rules (3)
 - ii) Transformational rules (3)
- b) Derive the following sentence by showing (i) its deep structure, (ii) the T- rules that have been applied to it and (iii) its resultant surface structure.
- SENTENCE:** *Why was the ugly old hat not thrown away?* (14)

[20 MARKS]

SECTION E

MISCELLANEOUS

Answer only one Question from this Section

QUESTION 11

- a) With the aid of examples discuss five design features of human language

[10 MARKS]

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

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 12

Language change may be manifested at different levels. Explain each level and then give appropriate examples.

QUESTION 13

- a) What is meant by the term Critical Period Hypothesis? (5)
- b) Explain the theory of Critical Period Hypothesis (5)
- c) Using evidence from studies carried out discuss both the supporting and counter evidences of the Critical Period Hypothesis. (10)

QUESTION 14

- a) What is computational linguistics? (5)
- b) "A day in which any traveler can reach out into his pocket and produce a machine translator, hold it up to the talking mouth of a native speaker and in return receive a translated version of the utterance in his own language, may not come in our life time."

Discuss this statement in relation to the original goals of machine translations and problems that have been encountered which have resulted in the above statement.

(15)

[20 MARKS]