

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2006

TITLE OF PAPER : **HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS: (WESTERN AND BANTU)**

COURSE CODE : **AL301/IDE-AL301**

TOTAL MARKS : **100**

TIME ALLOWED : **THREE (3) HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS : **1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**

2. ANSWER ONE (1) 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**CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS OF LINGUISTS IN THE WESTERN WORLD INCLUDING INDIA****QUESTION 1**

Discuss the contributions made by Sir William Jones in the development of language as a science.
[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 2

- (a) Summarize King Psammetichus's experiment on language acquisition. (12)
- (b) Briefly explain why this experiment was considered a contribution towards the development of linguistics as a subject. (3)
- (c) Critique Psammetichus's experiment. (10)

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 3

Using the following points write an essay on the contribution made by Wilhelm von Humboldt to the development of linguistics as a science.

- (a) i) - date of birth and death as well as his nationality. (1)
 ii) - how did his interest differ from that of his contemporaries? (1)
 iii) - what did he stress? (2)
- (b) i) - what was his contribution towards the development of linguistics to a science? (2)
 ii) - briefly explain the contribution you mentioned under (3(b(i))) above. (3)
 iii) - briefly explain the two terms that you mentioned under (3(b)(ii)) above. (9)
 iv) - the "structural" conception of language became dominant during this time. Which period? (1)
- (c) What is the name of the hypothesis that developed from some of Humboldt's ideas namely that of linking language, culture and thought? That is, according to Crystal (1997:339) "we dissect nature along lines laid down by our native languages ... by the linguistic systems."
- What did he say about language? (1)
 - What does one have to do in order to understand the culture of the people? (3)

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 4

- (a) With the aid of examples where possible, explain why Pāṇini is associated with some of the terms or expressions that are used in today's linguistics:
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| (i) Rules | [3 marks] |
| (ii) Rule Ordering | [3 marks] |
| (iii) Economical Rule | [3 marks] |
| (iv) Sandhi Rules | [3 marks] |
| (v) A zero morpheme | [3 marks] |
- [15]
- (b) Give the title of Pāṇini's grammar book both in Indian language title as well as the English one. [2 marks]
- (c) Briefly explain why Pāṇini was motivated in writing this grammar book. [4 marks]
- (d) What was the language that Pāṇini was analysing? [2 marks]
- (e) When was his first book published? [2 marks]
- [TOTAL MARKS = 25]**

SECTION B**DISCUSSION OF CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY: DISPUTES, THEORIES AND GRAMMARS ETC. IN THE WESTERN WORLD INCLUDING INDIA; IN DEVELOPING LINGUISTICS AS A SCIENCE****QUESTION 5**

With the aid of examples, discuss Trubetzkoy's features that were based on the relationship between a pair of opposition and the rest of the pair of oppositions in the phonological inventory of the system of that language. [TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 6

- (a) Define the term "glottochronology". (2)
- (b) Briefly discuss at least two (2) things that glottochronology assumes. (4)
- (c) With the aid of examples under each shortcoming - where possible discuss at least four (4) criticisms levelled against this theory. (16)
- (d) State two (2) contributions that glottochronology made towards the advancement of linguistics as a science. (3)
- [TOTAL MARKS = 25]**

QUESTION 7

- (a) In his book “Syntactic Structures” Chomsky (1957) finally proposes a grammar that consists of three successive parts. State these parts. (3)
- (b) With the aid of example under each characteristic, discuss briefly five (5) characteristics of Phrase Structure Rules and three (3) characteristics of Transformation Rules. (22)

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 8

Discuss critically the Stammbaum Theorie “Family-Tree Theory” as proposed by Schleicher according to Waterman (1963).

SECTION C

BANTU

QUESTION 9

- (a) Define the term “Ur-Bantu”. (1)
- (b) List the speech sounds that were posited by Meinhof for Ur-Bantu according to Doke and Cole (1961). (11)
- (c) Lepsius (1880) divided African Languages into three main groups. List these main groups and their subgroups. (13)

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 10

Oliver (1960:361-376) says the following about Greenberg: “working from a lexical comparison of the equivalents for about fifty common words in a large number of Western Sudanic and Bantu languages, Greenberg had reached the conclusion that Bantu belonged to the Western Sudanic language family”. Summarize Greenberg’s (1972:189-216) re-action to the underlined phrases.

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 11

- (a) According to Greenberg (1972:189-216), what internal evidence did Guthrie use in order to postulate the origin of Bantu languages in the Katanga woodlands areas. (12)
- (b) List the seven zones including code numbers and four subsidiary zones as found in Doke’s classification including their code numbers as well. (10)
- (c) Why is Doke’s classification is said to be tentative? (3)

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 12

(a) Give one or more than one possible Ur-Bantu forms for the following siSwati words:

(i)	- sitsa	“shade”	(4)
(ii)	- fula	“harvest”	(6)
(iii)	- phila	“be alive”	(2)
(iv)	- fuya	“rear (goats etc)”	(2)
(v)	- vuna	“reap”	(2)
(vi)	- akha	“build”	(2)
(vii)	- hlupha	“annoy/trouble”	(2)

[20]

(b) According to Meinhof (1932:100-101) some words that are found in Bantu languages were borrowed from certain foreign languages thus introducing foreign sounds in the process. Give the name of the language from which each one of the following words were borrowed from.

(i)	ummbila	“maize/corn”	(1)
(ii)	situlo	“chair”	(1)
(iii)	imali	“money”	(1)
(iv)	liduku	“handkerchief; head scarf”	(1)
(v)	liphepha	“paper”	(1)

[5]

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]**SECTION D****CHARACTERISTICS ETC. OF FAMILY GROUPS OF LANGUAGES; CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY INDIVIDUALS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BANTU LANGUAGES****QUESTION 13**

Using one siSwati example under each characteristic, discuss six main morphological characteristics of the Bantu Family of languages according to Doke (1967:47-48).

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]**QUESTION 14**

With the aid of one example under each type of rule, discuss five types of rules that Meinhof (1932:179ff) said that “they occur in many languages but not so widely that we would be justified in assuming their existence in Ur-Bantu, and they appear partly to have set in and spread to other languages at a comparatively late date.”

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 15

With the aid of one example under each characteristic, discuss seven characteristics of Zunda Nguni sub-group according to Doke (1945).

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 16

Brusciotto used the Latin model in writing the grammar of a Bantu language.

Comment on this statement indicating his contribution towards the development of Bantu linguistics as well.

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]