

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

Consider the following data from Lehmann (1973:85) and answer the questions below:

	PIE				GERMANIC	
(a)	* pt	<u>Gothic</u> "married"	hafts	>	<u>Latin</u> :captus	"captured"
(b)	* sp	"spew"	speiwan	>	:spuō	"spit"
(c)	* st	"is"	ist	>	:est	"is"
(d)	* sk	"shadow"	skadus	>	<u>Greek</u> :skōtos	"darkness"
(e)	* kt	"night"	nahts	>	<u>Latin</u> :nox, noctis	"night"

QUESTIONS

- (a) Why did Grimm consider the above data an exception? (4)
- (b) Grimm observed earlier on an exception which he called "grammatical change". Briefly explain what was this exception all about. (4)
- (c) According to the Neogrammarians what was the reason for the above data to appear as an exception? (4)
- (d) How did the Neogrammarians render what was considered, under (1(a)) above, as an exception to be no longer an exception? (4)
- (e) How did the solution offered by the Neogrammarians refined the comparative method? (4)
- (f) How did the solution offered by the Neogrammarians, in connection with the exception under (19b)) above, refined the comparative method? (4)

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 2

According to Watermann (1963:38-43), Schleicher posited three vowels for Indo-European:

- (a) - List the three vowels that Schleicher posited. (2)
- (b) - Give two ideas/reasons that Schleicher had concerning an ancestor language that caused him to posit the vowels you gave under (2(a)) above. (6)

- (c) - Some linguists did not agree with Schleicher on the three vowels for Indo-European. They pointed out that Indo-European had five vowels. They added two vowels on Schleicher's list thus having five vowels for Indo-European. Which two vowels did they add? (2)
- (d) - With the aid of examples from Sanskrit and Latin, discuss the argument they used in order to justify the existence of five vowels in Indo-European. (13)
- (e) - Schleicher also posited three gutturals (velars) for Indo-European. List the three velars using (phonetic) symbols. (1)
- (f) - Other linguists added two more series on Schleicher's series. Using the (phonetic) symbols, list these series.

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 3

- (a) There is a law that was named after Hermann Grassmann (1809-1877). Name the law and state the reason why this law was formulated.
- (b) With the aid of examples where appropriate, discuss the law you gave under (3(a)) above indicating how it was a contribution to the advancement of linguistics as a science. (24)

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 4

- (a) Consider the following verses from the Bible and answer the questions below:

- 4.1 Genesis 1:3
- 4.2 Genesis 2:7
- 4.3 Genesis 2:19

QUESTIONS:

- (i) Summarize briefly, using your own words, what is contained in each of the above verses. Your summary should not be more than five lines. (9)
- (ii) What kind of notions about language does each verse contain? (9)
- (b) According to Simpson (1978), Moffatt translated the beginning of the Gospel of St. John as follows:

“when all things began, the word was at the creation”.

what does this quote imply about the existence of language?

- (c) In today's linguistics, it is claimed that one language may develop into different languages after the speakers of that language have migrated to different geographical areas. Genesis

11:1-9 speaks about the diversity of a language. Briefly explain how these two hypotheses are similar and how they are different. (4)

[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

In Chapter 5 of Syntactic Structures Chomsky (1957) pointed some shortcomings of phrase structure grammar. With the aid of an example under each shortcoming, discuss at least five (5) shortcomings of such a grammar. [TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 6

- (a) Who are the “neogrammarians”? (2)
- (b) List, at least, five methods that the “neogrammarians” used in order to support their “manifesto”. (5)
- (c) Consider the following classical Latin example from Arlotto (1972:131) for the word “honour” and answer the questions that follow:

<u>Pre-Latin</u>		<u>Oldest Latin</u>		<u>Classical Latin</u>
Nom. * honos	>	honos	>	honor
Gen. *honos-is	>	honor-is	>	honor-is
Dative.*honos-i	>	honor-i	>	honor-i

Briefly discuss the processes that have been involved in changing the forms of Pre-Latin to those of the Classical Latin. (15)

- (d) How would the neogrammarians explain the existence of the word philosophus in Latin instead of philorophus? (3)

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 7

- (a) Consider the following data from Waterman (1963:47) and answer the questions below:

1	(a)	phāmi	“I say”
	(b)	phōne	“voice”
	(c)	phatos	“said”
	(d)	histāmi	“I put”
	(e)	dōnum	“gift”
	(f)	datus	“given”

- What does the data above illustrate concerning vowel alternations? (3)
- (b) What does the following data from Waterman (1963:47) illustrate or support? Give a brief explanation.
- | | | | | | |
|----|-----|--------------------------|---|----------|----------------|
| 2. | (a) | <u>Latin</u> | : | pāscunt | “they protect” |
| | (b) | <u>Western Tocharian</u> | : | pāskem | “they protect” |
| | (c) | <u>Hittite</u> | : | pahsanzi | “they protect” |
- (4)
- (c) Who was the linguist that “discovered” the Hittite data and when? (2)
- (d) What would be the underlying forms of the words under (7(a)) above using de Saussure’s explanation.
- | | | | |
|---|-----|---------|-----|
| 3 | (a) | “I say” | (2) |
| | (b) | “voice” | (2) |
| | (c) | “said” | (2) |
| | (d) | “I put” | (2) |
| | (e) | “given” | (2) |
| | (f) | “gift” | (2) |
- (12)
- (e) With the aid of examples, briefly explain the difference between Abtönung (Apophony or Qualitative change) versus the Abstufung (metaphony or quantitative) change. (4)

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 8

With the aid of examples, discuss typological classification of languages as proposed by August Schlegel (1767-1845) according to Lehmann (1992:92).

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

SECTION C**BANTU****DATA: THEORIES ON CLASSIFICATION OF AFRICAN/BANTU LANGUAGES****QUESTION 9**

- (a) According to Meinhof (1932:39-40), Ur-Bantu had twenty-one (21) prefixes. List all the Ur-Bantu prefixes that Meinhof (1932) posited for Ur-Bantu and next to these, list the prefixes that are found in siSwati. (18)
- (b) Give the list on the names (features) of the non-nasal consonants that were posited by Meinhof (1932) for Ur-Bantu as found in Doke and Cole (1961). (7)

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 10

- (a) Give three types of evidences that Greenberg (1972) proposed in order to support the place of Bantu origins that he proposed. (6)
- (b) According to Phillipson (1977) where did the Bantu speaking people originated from? Is this the same place as Greenberg proposed? (2)
- (c) Robert Soper and Phillipson (1977) realized that there were different types of ceramics that were found in the Eastern part of the sub-equatorial Africa. How does Phillipson (1977) call these divisions in his article? (2)
- (d) Give the sound shifts that took place between Ur-Bantu and siSwati for the vowels and consonants and illustrate each sound shift with one example:

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-----|
| (i) | * î | (1) |
| (ii) | * û | (1) |
| (iii) | * o | (1) |
| (iv) | * nda | (2) |
| (v) | * ũu | (2) |
| (vi) | * kû | (2) |
| (vii) | * a | (1) |

[10]

- (e) What type of evidence Phillipson (1977) advanced in order to trace the migration of the Bantu speaking people from their source of origin. (2)
- (f) What made Guthrie decide that the origin of Bantu speaking people was Central Africa? (2)

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]**QUESTION 11**

- (a) Draw the family tree showing the “geneology” of Bantu languages according to Greenberg (1963) as proposed by Gowlett (1980). Give the first four languages of Africa and then draw the family tree focusing on the Ur-Bantu to Bantu languages “genealogy”.

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]**QUESTION 12**

- (a) With illustrations (under each criteria) from any Bantu language, discuss the criteria proposed by Guthrie (1967) for identifying languages as Bantu. (21)
- (b) Define the terms “sub-Bantu” and “Bantoid”. (4)

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

SECTION D

CHARACTERISTICS ETC. OF FAMILY GROUPS OF LANGUAGES; CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY INDIVIDUALS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BANTU LANGUAGES

QUESTION 13

- (a) Greenberg (1954) after receiving more data from other languages reduced the total number of independent families to twelve. List the twelve independent families. (12)
- (b) Who was the first linguist to use the term "Bantu"? (2)
- (c) Explain briefly how some of siSwati noun prefixes are similar to Ur-Bantu ones. (3)
- (d) Guthrie (1967) discusses three methods that can be used in classifying Bantu languages. Name these three methods. (3)
- (e) According to Guthrie (1967) the criteria for identifying Bantu languages can be divided into two main groups. Name these groups. (2)
- (f) Write three basic vowels that Meinhof (1932) posited for Ur-Bantu. (3)

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 14

Using one example under each characteristic, discuss Doke's (1967:73) seven characteristics that are found in languages that fall under the South-Eastern zone.

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 15

Using one siSwati example under each characteristic, discuss at least nine characteristics of TEKELA Nguni sub-group.

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]

QUESTION 16

Discuss the contribution made by Heinrich Lichenstein towards the development of Bantu linguistics.

[TOTAL MARKS = 25]