

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 2007**

- TITLE OF PAPER** : **INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE**
- COURSE CODE** : **AL100/IDE-AL100**
- TIME ALLOWED** : **THREE (3) HOURS**
- INSTRUCTIONS** :
1. **ANSWER SEVEN (7) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
  2. **ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A.**
  3. **ANSWER BOTH QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B.**
  4. **ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION C.**
  5. **ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION D.**
  6. **ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION E.**
  7. **MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLINGS AND UNGRAMMATICAL EXPRESSIONS.**

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

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**SECTION A****PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY**

Answer any two questions from this Section

**QUESTION 1**

Study carefully the pairs of English words below. Copy out each pair with its phonemic transcription, thereafter, determine whether the two words in each case constitute a minimal pair. Mark with a tick (✓) each minimal pair and with a cross (X) those words which do not form a minimal pair.

- |                   |                     |                     |                      |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| (a) cap<br>cab    | (d) fan<br>vane     | (g) van<br>for      | (j) flight<br>fright |
| (b) this<br>these | (e) fight<br>fright | (h) course<br>cause |                      |
| (c) vein<br>vane  | (f) this<br>sin     | (i) fan<br>fane     |                      |

[10 marks]

**QUESTION 2**

Answer by 'true' or 'false' the following statement.

- (a) Spelling and phonetic symbols are one and the same thing.
- (b) Speech sounds refer to any sound.
- (c) In the word 'knot' the letter K is not pronounced. This means it represents no speech sound in this word.
- (d) Auditory phonetics is the study of how speech sounds are heard or perceived.
- (e) In the word use there is a speech sound which is not represented by a letter.
- (f) Continuous speech cannot be analyzed into individual speech sounds.
- (g) Articulatory phonetics is the study of physical properties of speech sounds.
- (h) Acoustic phonetics is the study of the perception of speech sounds.
- (i) The letters th in the words this and thin represent the same speech sounds.
- (j) There are two ways or methods that can be used in studying phonetics.

[10 marks]

**QUESTION 3**

Give (with examples) five phonological processes of conditioned sound change. [10 marks]

**QUESTION 4**

Discuss four problems or disadvantages associated with spelling if it were to be used in Phonetics. [10 marks]

**SECTION B**

**MORPHOLOGY**

Answer both questions from this Section.

**QUESTION 1**

What is the difference between inflectional morphology and derivational morphology. Give two examples for each case. [10 marks]

**QUESTION 2**

Study the form provided below and do the task which follows:

- |            |             |              |
|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. gentry  | 8. gantry   | 15. nendrine |
| 2. mbinion | 9. nglonism | 16. soft     |
| 3. sost    | 10. stlung  | 17. splatty  |
| 4. most    | 11. guide   | 18. ntofty   |
| 5. shline  | 12. mamend  | 19. sgudy    |
| 6. mest    | 13. tandly  | 20. ndrubby  |
| 7. sflout  | 14. spreave |              |

Copy out all the forms given above into three different lists as follows:

- (a) those words which exist in English.
  - (b) Possible English words. Explain why?
  - (c) Those forms which do not exist and would never possibly exist in English. Explain why?
- [10 marks]

**SECTION C**

**SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS**

Answer only one Question from this Section

**QUESTION 7**

- (a) With the aid of examples, define the term presupposition. [5 marks]
- (b) With the aid of examples from English, discuss any Two different ways in which one can respond to presuppositions. [6 marks]
- (c) Give three conditions that would make the following statement felicitous. [9 marks]

*Your child has given birth to a beautiful baby girl in London.*

**QUESTION 8**

- (a) What do we mean by the term Gricean principles? [4 marks]
- (b) With the aid of examples discuss fully any two of these principles and point out when and how speakers break them. [10 marks]
- (c) Consider the following sentence and then answer the questions that follow.

**Big boys don't cry.**

- (i) What is the locution of the statement? [1 mark]
- (ii) What is one of its illocution? [1 mark]
- (iii) Give one of its perlocution. [1 mark]
- (iv) Give three conditions that would make it felicitous. [3 marks]

**SECTION D**

**SYNTAX**

Answer only one Question from this Section

**QUESTION 9**

With the aid of examples define each of the following syntactic concepts:

- (a) deep structure (5)

- (b) transformational rule (5)
- (c) subcategorization (5)
- (d) c - command (5)

**QUESTION 10**

Write tree structure diagrams for each of the following:

- (a) the old man of Zakhele
- (b) some very special friend
- (c) give blood a bleeding
- (d) the young man gave me a book

**QUESTION 11**

- (a) With the aid of examples explain the difference between a Deep Structure and a Surface Structure. [5 marks]
- (b) Draw both the Deep Structure and Surface Structure of the following sentences.
  - i) When did John see the boy? [5 marks]
  - ii) Who was seen as the shop? [5 marks]
  - iii) Can God not forget me? [5 marks]

**SECTION E**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Answer only one question from this Section.

**QUESTION 12**

Language change may be manifested at different levels. Explain each level and give appropriate examples. [20 marks]

**QUESTION 13**

With explanations give five design features of human language. [20 marks]

**QUESTION 14**

- (a) What is meant by the term language centre? [2 marks]
- (b) With the aid of examples explain what happens in any two language Centres of the brain. [8 marks]
- (c) What is meant by the term aphasia? [2 marks]
- (d) With the aid of examples discuss the aphasia affecting the two language centres you discussed in (b) above. [4 marks]

**QUESTION 15**

- (a) What is meant by artificial intelligence? [2 marks]
- (b) Explain four goals of artificial intelligence. [4 marks]
- (c) With the aid of examples discuss (i) the speech recognizers and (ii) language parsers. [14 marks]