UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2007

TITLE OF PAPER : INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

COURSE CODE   AL200

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: : 1. ANSWER SIX (6) QUESTIONS IN ALL.

2. ALL QUESTIONS HAVE EQUAL MARKS.

3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS, SHOULD BE USED WHEREVER APPROPRIATE.

4. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLINGS AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.

5. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.

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QUESTION 1

    (a)   Write morphological rules to generate the words which follow:

        1. illegalization
        2. hyphenate
        3. normality
        4. affectionately
        5. misinformation

    (b)   For each of the words above, write down the stem and its affix(es) separately.

QUESTION 2

With the aid of distinctive features and conventional notations, formalise the rules below presented informally. (Don't use phonetic cover terms like C, V, or G).

    (a)   A vowel is nasalized before or after a nasal consonant.
    (b)   A consonant is labialised when it precedes the vowel /u/ or /o/.
    (c)   The vowels /i/ and /u/ become glides before /e,o,a/
    (d)   Voiced stops are devoiced when they occur in word – final position.
    (e)   A consonant is deleted when it occurs before another consonant

QUESTION 3

    (a)   Provide a morphological rule of compounding for each of the following compound words:
        1. greenhouse
        2. outdoor
        3. witch doctor
        4. blackmail

    (b) Express the four rules you provided above as a single rule.

QUESTION 4

Each of the noun phrases given below is ambiguous:

    1.   Congolese history teacher
    2.   Old hospital management

For each of the noun phrases, do the following tasks:

    (a)   Briefly state its two meanings.
    (b)   Use syntactic structure to represent the ambiguity.

QUESTION 5

Study the data below taken from Herero, a Bantu language spoken in Namibia, and do the tasks which follow:

Column A

kama   'squeeze'
tuma   'send'
teka   'scoop'
rora   'try'
kuta   'tie'
kanda   'milk'
tona   'strike'

Column B

kamena   'squeeze for'
tumina   'send for'
tekera   'scoop for'
rorera   'try for'
kutira   'tie for'
kandera   'milk for'
tonena   'strike for'

    (a)   Name the phonological processes occurring in Column B.
    (b)   Briefly explain how each of the processes occurs.
    (c)   State whether those processes are contiguous or non-contiguous, and briefly say why.

QUESTION 6

Consider the sentence below and do the task which follows:

Mary asked her husband if the truck had brought some maize.

    (a)   List the PS rules required to generate its P – marker.
    (b)   Draw a tree diagram to represent the sentence above.

QUESTION 7

From the list of words presented below, arrange the words in such a way that those words which are related by each of the processes of inflection and derivation be grouped together in a set:

Automat, trains, academy, manager, automatic, lovely, training, academic, manage, trainee, love, train, managerial, loving, trained, automatically, management, loveliest, managing.

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QUESTION 8

Study the surface structure sentences provided below and do the tasks which follow:

1.   Good cars are sold by Toyota Motors.
2.   Will you fail this exam?

(a)   Provide deep structure sentences for each of the surface structure sentences above.

(b)   For each surface structure, name and formalise the transformation which derives it from its deep structure.

QUESTION 9

With examples, define each of the following:

(a)   metathesis
(b)   epenthesis
(c)   deletion
(d)   prothesis