

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER - JULY 2007**

**B.A DEGREE**

**TITLE OF PAPER :** LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN LANGUAGE 11

**COURSE NUMBER:** AL300/IDE-AL300

**TIME ALLOWED:** TWO (2) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS IN ALL
2. ANSWER ONLY ONE 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

### THE NOUN

Answer ONE Question from this Section

#### QUESTION 1

- a) What is meant by term agentive nominals? Give examples to illustrate your answer. (5)
- b) With the aid of examples, discuss fully the formation of agentive nominals in siSwati, specifying clearly the differences between various types of agentive nominals that exist in the language. (15)

[20 MARKS]

#### QUESTION 2

- a) What is meant by the term action nominal? Give examples to illustrate your answer. (5)
- b) With the aid of examples explain that the ambiguity that is exhibited by the action nominal comes from the fact that in siSwati the action nominal covers both the gerund and the infinitive. (5)
- c) With the aid of examples, advance three arguments that prove that in siSwati the action nominal is not a noun. (10)

[20 MARKS]

#### QUESTION 3

- a) With the aid of examples from your language tabulate the possessive formed from the absolute pronoun and then explain how you have formed it.

[20 MARKS]

#### QUESTION 4

- a) Give four descriptive adjectival stems and four numeral adjectival stems. (4)
- b) Use the descriptive stems you have given in (a) above attributively (2)
- c) Use the four numeral stems you have given in (a) above predicatively. (2)
- d) Basing your argument on what you have observed in (b) and (c) above, discuss fully any four observable differences between an adjective that is used attributively and an adjective that is used predicatively. (12)

[20 MARKS]

## SECTION B

### THE PRONOUN AND THE QUALIFICATIVE

Answer ONE Question from this Section

#### QUESTION 5

With the aid of examples from your language, compare and contrast the quantitative pronoun formed with the stems **-nkhe** and **-dvwa**.

[20 MARKS]

#### QUESTION 6

- a) Traditional grammar distinguishes between a Qualificative and a Qualificativ pronoun. Using appropriate examples define each according to traditional grammar. (5)
- b) Show that this analysis is syntactically invalid. (5)
- c) Sibanda argues that “the major function of the Qualificative is to describe and/or modify the head noun by characterizing it in a specific and definite way.” With the aid of examples from siSwati explain how the Qualificative characterize the head noun attributively and predicatively. (10)

[20 MARKS]

#### QUESTION 7

- a) Give two examples of each of the following:  
(i) adjectival stems that are descriptive  
(ii) relative stems that denote colour  
(iii) relative stems that are derived from verbs (6)
- b) With the aid of examples, explain how one differentiates a relative stem from an adjectival stem (2)
- c) Give a complete table of the relative concord and then explain how you have formed it. (12)

[20 MARKS]

#### QUESTION 8

With the aid of examples, explain how the possessive is derived from (a) the absolute pronoun, (b) the demonstrative pronoun and (c) the possessive and (d) the locative.

[20 MARKS]

**SECTION C**

**LINGUISTIC PAPERS AND ARTICLES**

**Answer ONE Question from this Section**

**QUESTION 9**

- a) Give the types of nouns that Doke (1927) claimed to be under class 1a/2a. (2)
- b) Canonici (1989) presents four criteria for determining noun classes in Bantu. With reference to Zulu
- (i) Discuss three of them pointing out the shortcomings associated with each of them (12)
- (ii) Discuss fully how “the patterning of concordial agreement” proves that some of the nouns traditionally believed to belong to class 1(a) actually belong to class 3(a) (6)

**[20 MARKS]**

**QUESTION 10**

Using FOUR different arguments from Herbert (1971) prove that the nasal in class 9/10 nouns is part of the prefix in Bantu.

**[20 MARKS]**

**QUESTION 11**

- a) What is meant by the term null subject parameter (2)
- b) With the aid of examples from siSwati explain what is meant by a pro-drop language (2)
- c) Sibanda (1992) argues that in cases where the coreferent noun is dropped, the remaining proforms assume nominal features .
- i) list such nominal features (3)
- ii) Apart from pronouns, what other grammatical phenomenon embrace these nominal features you have mentioned in (i) above. (1)
- d) With the aid of examples from siSwati explain how the empty category is created in the subject position in siSwati. (12)

**[20 MARKS]**