

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2007

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

COURSE CODE: **AL301**

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

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER TEN (10) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. ANSWER FIVE (5) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A AND FIVE (5) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B.**
 - 3. ALL QUESTIONS HAVE EQUAL MARKS.**
 - 4. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS SHOULD BE USED WHEREVER APPROPRIATE.**
 - 5. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLINGS AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.**
 - 6. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**

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

SECTION A: BANTU LINGUISTICS

QUESTION 1

What are the contributions of each of the following to Bantu linguistics?

- (a) C. Meinhof
- (b) W. Bleek

QUESTION 2

Describe five of the seven criteria proposed by Guthrie for identifying languages as belonging to the Bantu family.

QUESTION 3

There are five ways in which languages may be classified.

- (a) What are they?
- (b) Briefly describe each of them.

QUESTION 4

Giving Pigafetta for illustration, describe and critically evaluate the earliest records of Bantu.

QUESTION 5

In brief, critically discuss Brusciotto's classification of nouns in Kikongo.

QUESTION 6

Distinguish between the ethnological and the linguistic use of the term 'Bantu'.

SECTION B: WESTERN LINGUISTICS

QUESTION 1

Identify and explain the three most striking aspects of Panini's approach to the analysis of language.

QUESTION 2

F. BOPP published a book which, according to Bloomfield (1933:14) marked 'the beginning of a systematic comparison of the Indo-European languages.

- (a) Give the title of the book
- (b) When was it published?
- (c) Briefly state the main content of the book

QUESTION 3

According to F. de SAUSSURE, the linguistic sign has two components.

- (a) Name the two components.
- (b) Describe/Explain each of the two components.

QUESTION 4

- (a) Name three founding members of the Prague school
- (b) What was the main interest of the Prague school?
- (c) List three specific notions which members of the Prague school introduced in linguistics.

QUESTION 5

- (a) Briefly distinguish between the two sides of the 'nature – convention' controversy.
- (b) What was Plato's position in the 'nature convention' debate?

QUESTION 6

Briefly explain how the advent of Christianity led to a greater interest in linguistic activity.