UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 2007

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS (WESTERN AND BANTU)

COURSE CODE   :   AL401/IDE-AL401

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.

SOUND CHANGE, MORPHOLOGICAL CHANGE SYNTACTIC CHANGE, SEMANTIC CHANGE, WRITTEN RECORDS, TYPOLOGICAL AND GENEALOGICAL CLASSIFICATION

QUESTION 1

According to Lehmann (1992:200) Kurylowicz formulated six rules (tendencies) that "provide explanations for some instances of analogical extension". With the aid of examples discuss the six rules (or tendencies).

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

(a)   According to Arlotto (1972:149), Benveniste claimed that "all grammatical changes can be divided into two groups. State and define these groups.

[8 marks]

(b)   Consider the following English words from Arlotto (1972:60) and answer the questions that follow:

1 (a)   Old English: sculan "to have to" > Modern English: "shall".
   (b)   Old English: willan "to wish to" > Modern English: "wish".

(i)   What type of grammatical change does the data under (1) above illustrates?

(2)

(ii)   State the process that was involved in changing the Old English words to the modern forms.   (2)

(iii)   Using the example under (1) briefly discuss, how this example supports the definition you gave under (b(ii)) above.   (3)

(c)   In Latin, according to Arlotto (1972:152), the following Latin sentence: Marcello ama Sophia "Marcello loves Sophia" would have the same meaning and be grammatical even if the words are arranged in any sequence. In Italian, the arrangement of these words is fixed, should they be rearranged a different meaning results or the sentence is unacceptable. Using the same sentence as an example briefly explain what happened between Latin and Italian indicating the type of change and the process involved.

(10)
[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

(a)   Consider the following English word from Arlotto (1972:68-69); and using the Transformation Generative Grammar approach (TGG), discuss the change that took place between the Old English word hnecca [hnɛka] and the modern Englsih neck [nɛk].

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1. Old English: hnecca [hnɛka] "neck"
2. Middle English : nekke [nɛkə] "neck"

(15)

(b)   Briefly explain what is meant by Linear B.   (10)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

(a)   Define the following terms that are used in government-based languages:

(i) ergative case   (2 ½)
(ii) absolute case   (2 ½)

(5)

(b)   List at least eight (8) factors that may influence the change of a reference or referent according to Lehmann (1992:261-264).   (16)

(c)   Give four uses of typological findings for Historical purposes according to Lehmann (1992).   (4)

[25 MARKS]

SECTION B

METHODS USED IN HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS

QUESTION 5

(a)   Give five steps of the comparative method that must be followed when using it according to Langacker (1973:223).   (10)

(b)   With the aid of examples, discuss four criticisms that are levelled against glottochronology.   (15)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 6

Consider the following Polynesian languages data from Arlotto (1972) and answer the questions that follow.

		Maori	Hawaiian	Samoan	Fijian
1.	"post"	pou	pou	pou	bou
2.	"forbidden"	tapu	kapu	tapu	tabu
3.	"cry"	taŋi	kani	taŋi	taŋi
4.	"keel"	takere	kaʔele	taʔele	takele
5.	"stay, sit"	hono	hono	fono	vono
6.	"light moon "dawn"	marama	malama	malama	malama
7.	"thatch"	kaho	ʔaho	ʔaso	kaso

On the basis of these data;

(a)   reconstruct the vowels, consonants, morphemes of the reconstructed language;
                                                                        (13)
(b)   State the phonological rules that relate each daughter language to the ancestor
        one.   (12)
                                                            [25 MARKS]

QUESTION 7

(a)   State the importance of writing in historical and comparative linguistics.
                                                                        (4)
(b)   Briefly discuss six historical evidences that historical linguists use in establishing
        phonological changes.   (21)
                                                            [25 MARKS]

QUESTION 8

Lehmann (1992) indicated that the comparative method has its advantages as well as its
shortcomings. With the aid of examples, discuss two advantages and two disadvantages of
the comparative method.
                                                            [25 MARKS]

SECTION C

COMPARATIVE BANTU AND OTHER NON-WESTERN LANGUAGES

QUESTION 9

(a)   Define the following terms below. Give one example for each term from Ur-Bantu,
        siSwati and Southern Sotho, as may be appropriate.

        (i)   - advanced sound shift (according to Meinhof, 1932).   (3)

        (ii)   - reflex   (3)

        (iii)   - cognate   (3)

        (iv)   - Proto-language   (3)

        (v)   - sound correspondence   (3)
                                                            [15]

(b) Fill in the following matrix with appropriate siSwati reflexes of the Ur-Bantu consonants.

	* i	* û	* ŷ	* ŵ
* p				
* t				
* k				
* l				
* n				

[20 ÷ 2 = 10]
[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 10

Consider the following siSwati and Swahili (Swahili data from Gleason (1955:42)) and answer the following questions.

SISWATI   SWAHILI

SISWATI	SWAHILI
Class ½ sing. umuntfu "person" Plur. bantfu "people"	Class ½ sing. mtu "person" Plur. watu "people"
Class ¾ sing. umsila "tail" Plur. imisila "tails"	Class ¾ sing. mšale "arrow" Plur. mišale "arrows"
Class 5/6 sing. lizembe "axe" Plur. emazembe "axes"	Class 5/6 sing. šoka "axe" Plur. mašoka "axes"
Class 7/8 sing. situlo "chair" Plur. titulo "chairs"	Class 7/8 sing. kisu "knife" Plur. visu "knives"
Class 9/10 sing. indlu "house" Plur. tindlu "houses"	Class 9/10 sing ɲumba "house" Plur ɲmba "houses"

(a)   List the siSwati prefixes of different classes as well as those of Swahili.
(10)

(b)   List the siSwati nominal stems giving their equivalent meaning in English (gloss) and do the same for Swahili stems.   (5)

(c)   Briefly discuss the structural differences that might be observed between siSwati and Swahili noun prefixes you gave under (a) above. Do not discuss phonological differences.
(5)

(d)   Given the fact that Meinhof (1932) posited N and lî-ni as singular and plural prefixes respectively of class 9/10, can you explain briefly about the Swahili prefixes of class 9/10 as well as the prefix of class 5/6 singular.
(5)
[25 MARKS]

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QUESTION 11

(a) Briefly explain what the term <u>Sub-Bantu</u> meant according to Guthrie and give an example. (4)

(b) Briefly explain what Guthrie meant by the term <u>Bantoid</u> and give an example. (3)

(c)Briefly discuss the linguistic method that was used by Guthrie in establishing the place of origin of the Bantu speaking peoples. (18)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 12

Discuss how the archaeological remains are dated and indicate how this process was useful in explaining the expansion of the Bantu-speaking people.

[25 MARKS]

SECTION D

CLASSIFICATION OF BANTU OR AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND TYPOLOGY AND SOME TOPICS RELATED TO THE COURSE

QUESTION 13

Give a detailed classification of South African languages as proposed by W.H.I. Bleek (1827 – 1875) according to Doke (1961:64)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 14

(a) Give the four language families of Africa according to Greenberg (1968). (8)

(b) Using siSwati examples, discuss the criteria numbers 2, 3 and 4 that Guthrie (1967) used in deciding whether the language was Bantu or not. (17)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 15

(a) Winston (1972) envisaged that Greenberg's methodology resulted in concrete results when it was applied. Discuss the results of the application of this methodology. (21)

(b) After Winston (1979) stated some of the envisaged results of using Greenberg's methodology, which you have stated under (15(a)) above, what were Winston's personal feelings about these results? (4)

[25 MARKS]

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QUESTION 16

(a) Greenberg (1970) stated that: "there are three fundamentals of method underlying the present classification". State these three fundamentals or principles.

(6)

(b) Give in detail the classification of Kaffrarian family according to Prichard as found in Cole (1961:88). Use the spelling used in the text.

(19)

[25 MARKS]