

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER - MAY 2008
B.A DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER : INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

COURSE NUMBER: AL100/IDE-AL100

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL
2. ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION A AND ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION B
3. ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION C
4. ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION D
5. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS SHOULD BE USED WHEREVER APPROPRIATE
6. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES
7. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.

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

SECTION A

PHONETICS

Answer **ONE** Question from this Section

QUESTION 1

- (a) The following transcription represents one person's reading of this passage. Write out the passage using Standard English orthography.

[ɪt ɪz pɔsəbl tə trænskraɪb fənetɪklɪ enɪ ʌtrɛns, ɪn enɪ læŋgwɪdʒ, ɪn sevrəl dɪfrənt weɪz ɔl əv ðəm dʒuːzɪŋ ðɪ ælfəbet ənd kənvenʃənz əv ðɪ aɪ pɪ eɪ. (ðə seɪm θɪŋ ɪz pɔsəbl wɪð moʊst ɪntənæʃənəl fənetɪk ælfəbet) ə trænskɪrɪpʃn wɪtʃ ɪz meɪd baɪ dʒuːzɪŋ lɛtəz əv ðə sɪmpləst pɔsəbl feɪps, ənd ɪn ðə sɪmpləst pɔsəbl nʌmbə, ɪz kɔld ə sɪmpl fəʊnɪmɪk trænskɪrɪpʃn] (16)

- (b) Write the IPA symbols representing the following phonetic descriptions, and illustrate each of the sounds with a word in a language that contains the sound:

- (i) Voiceless dental click
- (ii) Palatal glide
- (iii) Voiced velar implosive
- (iv) Voiceless alveolar fricative
- (v) High tense unrounded front vowel (9)
- (vi) Voiced glottal fricative
- (vii) Voiceless lateral alveolar fricative
- (viii) Voiceless aspirated bilabial stop
- (ix) High lax back rounded vowel

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

- (a) Using the phonetic alphabet, transcribe the following English words as you pronounce them in casual speech:

- i) children
- ii) accept
- iii) horse
- iv) look
- v) coughs
- vi) through (9)
- vii) often
- viii) filed
- ix) field

(b) Arrange the sounds below into groups according to the following criteria:

- i) Voicing
- ii) Place of articulation (8)
- iii) Manner of articulation

[x] [k] [b] [ʃ] [ʒ] [z] [d] [p] [f] [g]

(c) In each of the groups (i-iv) below there is one odd member, the rest belonging to a natural class. Identify the odd one out and say which feature is common to the remainder.

- i) [d, ʒ, z, f, ʃ]
- ii) [x, ʃ, ŋ, k, p]
- iii) [n, l, ʒ, d, ŋ] (8)
- iv) [v, n, m, ɔ, β]

[25 MARKS]

SECTION B

PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY

Answer ONE Question from this Section

QUESTION 3

(a) Distinguish between each of the following linguistic terms and concepts. Support your argument with examples from English.

- (i) accidental gaps and systematic gaps;
- (ii) allophones in free variation and allophones in complementary distribution. (5)

(b) In each of the following pairs of words, the underlined sounds differ by one or more phonetic properties (features). State the differences and, in addition, state what properties they have in common.

- (i) thigh thy
- (ii) reduce reduction
- (iii) taps tabs (8)
- (iv) impolite indecent

(c) Formalize the following phonological rules:

- i) A voiceless consonant becomes voiced between vowels
- ii) A vowel is nasalized when occurs before a nasal consonant.
- iii) Non-labial consonants are labialized when they occur before the vowel /u/ and /o/.
- iv) A voiced bilabial stop becomes a bilabial voiced fricative between vowels.

(12)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION4

(a) Consider the following forms from IciBemba, a Bantu language spoken in Zambia, and then answer the questions that follow:

alalanda	“s/he speaks
ulalanda	“you (singular) speak”
tulalanda	“we speak”
mulalanda	“you (plural) speak”
balalanda	“they speak”
ndalanda	“I speak”
nkalanda	“I will speak”
tukalanda	“we will speak”

1. What is the morpheme for “I”? (2)
2. What is the present tense morpheme? (2)
3. Which are the allomorphs of the present tense morpheme? (2)
4. State the distribution of the allomorphs you identified in (3) above. (5)
5. Given that [tatubwela] means “we do not come”, how would you say the following in IciBemba?

- i) They do not come
- ii) I will come
- iii) You (plural) come

(9)

(c) Indicate the word formation process responsible for the creation of the following words:

- i) spoon feed
- ii) produce (noun)
- iii) ATM
- iv) donate (5)
- v) typo

[25 MARKS]

SECTION C
SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Answer One Question from this Section

QUESTION 5

- a) Consider the sentence below and then answer the questions that follow.

I warn you to meet me here tomorrow afternoon.

- i) What kind of direct speech is this? Why do you say so? (1)
 - ii) Give **TWO** conditions that would make this sentence felicitous. (2)
 - iii) What is the locution of the statement? (1)
 - iv) What is one of its illocution? (1)
 - v) What is one of its perlocution? (1)
 - vi) Give all deictic expressions used in the statement above and name the type of each one of them. (5)
- b) With the aid of examples explain the similarities and differences between **TWO** of the following sets of concepts
- i) entailment and paraphrases
 - ii) contradiction and antonyms
 - iii) polysemy and ambiguity (8)
- c) Disambiguate the following sentences by giving two different meanings associated with each one of them.
- i) Musa only read the book in the kitchen
 - ii) Driving children can be dangerous.
 - iii) His beautiful wife lives in Mbabane. (6)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 6

- a) Words and sentences have meaning relations. Discuss **TWO** different semantic relations affecting words and **THREE** semantic relations affecting sentences. (10)

- b) H.P. Grice formulated a set of Cooperative Principles which underline language use.
 - i) Name each of these principles (2)
 - ii) With the aid of examples explain each of these principles. (13)

[25 MARKS]

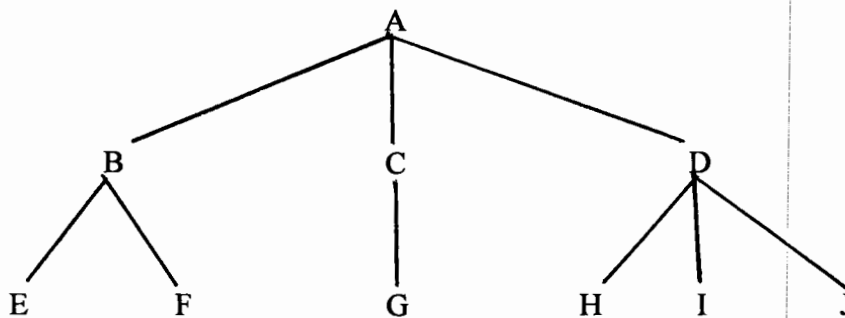
SECTION D

SYNTAX

Answer only ONE Question from this Section

QUESTION 7

- a) Consider the following diagram and then answer the questions that follow



- i) List all the nodes that are dominated by A (4.5)
- ii) List all the nodes that are sisters to D (1)
- iii) List the nodes that are c-commanded by B (3)
- iv) List the nodes that are immediately dominated by A (1.5)

iv) List the nodes that are immediately dominated by A (1.5)

v) Name the daughter nodes of C (1)

b) Write the tree structure of the following sentences

i) Jesus wept

ii) John killed a snake.

iii) The king of Swaziland went to England.

iv) The beautiful ones gave James an old book. (14)

QUESTION 8

a) The following two sentences are ambiguous.

SENTENCES: *The police shot the suspect with a machine gun*

Young men and girls went to the party.

i) Write down the different meanings associated with each one of them (4)

ii) Write down a tree structure diagram that will correctly reflect each of the meanings you have identified (i) above.
(12)

b) With the aid of examples explain the following concepts

i) subcategorization (3)

ii) c-command (2)

iii) hierarchical relationship (2)

iv) precedence relationship (2)

[25 MARKS]