

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER - JULY 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 FORMALISM 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

Choose one question from this section

QUESTION 1

- (a) Provide a full description of each of the sounds represented by the following phonetic symbols. Your description should include the place and manner of articulation as well as glottal activity.

[ɗʒ] [b] [ɾ] [ɣ] [ʔ]

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

- a) Distinguish between the following linguistic terms and concepts. Give for each argument an example from any language:

- i) oral and nasal;
- ii) aspirated and unaspirated;
- iii) voiced and voiceless; (15)
- iv) Egressive and ingressive;
- v) Pulmonic and glottalic airstream mechanism.

- b) Transcribe phonetically the siSwati items which follow:

- i) gijima 'run'
- ii) bala 'count'
- iii) hishwa 'choke'
- iv) pheka 'cook'
- v) hlola 'peep' (10)
- vi) ngena 'enter'
- vii) ingulube 'pig'
- viii) inyoka 'snake'
- ix) yosa 'grill'
- x)inja 'dog'

[25 MARKS]

SECTION B

PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY

Choose one question from this section

QUESTION 3

- (a) What distinctive feature, if any, do the following sets of sound segments share?
- i) vowels and semi vowels;
 - ii) consonants and vowels;
 - iii) stops and affricates; (5)
 - iv) bilabials and rounded vowels;
 - v) liquids and semi vowels
- b) Using phonetic cover terms formalize the following rules expressed in ordinary English words:
- i) A glide is inserted between vowels.
 - ii) A consonant is deleted when it occurs before another consonant.
 - iii) Voiceless stops are aspirated in word-initial position. (4)
- c) Using distinctive features, formalize the following rules:
- i) A vowel is nasalized when it occurs before a nasal consonant.
 - ii) A voiceless consonant becomes voiced between vowels.
 - iii) Voiced stops are phonetically realized as voiceless segments in word-final position.
 - iv) A labial consonant is inserted between the vowel /o/ and /u/. (12)
- d) Using examples from any language, distinguish between a minimal pair and a near minimal pair. (4)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

- (a) From the examples of Swahili sentences below, work out the lexical and grammatical forms which correspond to the English elements in the English translation.

waliondoka	“they left”	
niliwapika	“I cooked them”	
nitaondoka	“I will leave”	
utawauza	“You will sell them”	(10)
tutapita	“We will pass by”	

- (b) Consider the following data from Sierra Popoluca (spoken in Mexico):

ka:ma	‘cornfield’	ko:ya	‘rabbit’
aŋkama	‘my cornfield’	aŋko:ya	‘my rabbit’
ika:ma	‘his cornfield’	iko:ya	‘his rabbit’
iŋkama	‘your cornfield’	iŋko:ya	‘your rabbit’
way	‘hair’	ka:pay	‘sister-in-law’
aŋway	‘my hair’	aŋka:pay	‘my sister-in-law’
iway	‘his hair’	ika:pay	‘his sister-in-law’
iŋway	‘your hair’	iŋka:pay	‘your sister-in-law’

- i) Give the Sierra Popoluca morpheme which corresponds to the following English translation:
1. “my”
 2. “his” (3)
 3. “your”
- ii) What type of affixes are these? (2)
- iii) List all the other morphemes occurring in the data above (Give the Sierra Popoluca morpheme and the English gloss). (8)
- iv) Formulate a general statement about how to form the possessive form of nouns in Sierra Popoluca. (3)

[25 MARKS]

SECTION C

SEMENANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Answer ONE Question from this Section

QUESTION 5

- a) The following sentences are ambiguous. Disambiguate each one of them by giving two paraphrases.
- i) My pen which was bought in Manzini is broken.
 - ii) We laughed at the party.
 - iii) One punch was enough to knock him down.
 - iv) Visiting strangers can be dangerous at night.
 - v) Rodah loves John more that Cindy.

(15 marks)

b) Give both the intention and extension of the following expressions.

- i) The University of Swaziland
- ii) Your semantics teacher
- iii) The Dean of Student Affairs at UNISWA
- iv) The king of Swaziland
- v) The President of South Africa

(10 marks)

c)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 6

- a) From each of the sentences below ;
- i) identify all the NPs
 - ii) state the NP's thematic relation to the underline verb.
- a) John gave a book to Betty
- b) Mandla's pen was bought in Mbabane
- c) The net was torn by the wind
- d) The children ran from the plyground to the pool.
- e) One of the janitors unlocked the doors with a screw driver.
- f) Jonathan is sick today.

(25 MARKS)

SECTION D

SYNTAX

Answer One Question from this Section

QUESTION 7

a) Write a tree structure for each of the following sentences.

- i) The old man saw the lousy girl.
- ii) Some very nice girls will visit our home.
- iii) John snatched a toy from the child
- iv) Mary is our lady of Sorrows
- v) A boy in class smiled at us.

(15 marks)

b) With the aid of examples explain the following concepts;

- i) noun phrase
- ii) verb phrase
- iii) adjective
- iv) determiner
- v) prepositional phrase

(10 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 8

a) From each of the following sentences identify both the noun phrase and the verb phrase.

- i) He thinks they love sweets
- ii) That lousy teacher will see a desert tonight.
- iii) The stupid old boys may have to borrow some money from their parents
- iv) The toy was broken by the stupid dog.
- v) We all know that God loves people who do good things.

(15 marks)

b) Draw a tree structure for the following sentences

- i) Most old nice people see these things clearly
- ii) That wonderful girl will marry this crazy boy
- iii) John gave a book to Jane.
- iv) She sat at the corner of the table
- v) My mother wept.

(10 marks)

[25 MARKS]