

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2008

B.A. DEGREE

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

COURSE NUMBER: AL301/IDE-AL301

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM EACH SECTION.**
 - 3. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**
 - 4. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING, AND ILL-FORMED SENTENCES.**

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

SECTION A

Question 1

According to Robins (1990:21) amongst the ancient Greek philosophers, "...questions about language were considered within the terms of two somewhat interrelated controversies".

Discuss each of these controversies and evaluate the position of the following in either or both of the controversies:

- a) Plato;
 - b) Aristotle;
 - c) The Stoics; and
 - d) Varro
- [25 marks]

Question 2

Compare and contrast Varro's and Priscian's contributions to linguistic science with special reference to their treatment of the following:

- i) grammatical categories and word classes
 - ii) tense; and
 - iii) phonetics
- [25 marks]

Question 3

Rasmus Rask, rather than Jacob Grimm, should have been crowned as "The father of comparative linguistics". Discuss

[25 marks]

Question 4

- a) There are four morphological systems found in human languages. These are:
- i) Isolating or analytic
 - ii) Agglutinating/Agglutinative
 - iii) Synthetic or Inflectional
 - iv) Polysynthetic

Using relevant examples, explain how the following languages may be placed in more than one of the above morphological systems.

1. The English language

2. Bantu languages (12)
- c) Name the three most striking aspects of Panini's approach to the analysis of language. (3)
- d) The Indian grammarians were interested in phonetics. What triggered the interest? (4)
- e) What aspect of language study was Protagoras credited with? (2)
- f) The Alexandrian's approach to the study of language was prescriptive, state two weaknesses of their approach. (4)

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Question 5

Discuss briefly the contributions made to Bantu linguistic studies by the following:

- i) James Bryant
- ii) Johann Ludwig Krapf
- iii) John Colenso
- iv) Eugene Casalis
- v) J. W. Appleyard

[25 marks]

Question 6

Discuss the contributions made to Bantu linguistic studies by Heinrich Lichtenstein.

[25 marks]

Question 7

Critically, evaluate August Schleicher's Stammbaumtheorie.

[25 marks]

Question 8

- a) Brusciotto (1659) made reference to 'articles', 'pricipiations', 'case system', and 'declensions' in his description of KiKongo. Briefly discuss his motivation for the use of these terms and state the place of each of the terms in modern Bantu linguistic analysis. (12)

- b) Briefly discuss four weaknesses of the 16th Century Portuguese recorders of Bantu terms. (4)
- c) Briefly discuss two reasons why Greenberg rejected the typological classification of languages. (4)
- d) The term 'Bantu' could be used ethnologically or linguistically. Briefly discuss. (3)
- e) Name any four daughter languages of Bantoid according to Greenberg's classification of African languages. (2)

[25 marks]