

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 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

Discuss the role played by the Roman rule in the development of intellectual, political, cultural, and moral civilization during the Greco-Roman era.

[25 marks]

Question 2

Discuss briefly the contributions made by any **five** of the following scholars towards the development of Historical and Comparative linguistics:

- a) Von Leibniz;
- b) Dante
- c) Johann von Herder
- d) Sir William Jones
- e) Franz Bopp
- f) Friedrich Schlegel

Question 3

Critically evaluate Grimm's Law and illustrate how Verner's Law complemented it.

[25 marks]

Question 4

- a) With illustrations, explain what you understand by the following linguistic terms:
 - i) Political classification of languages;
 - ii) Universal tendencies;
 - iii) Implicational universals; (15)
 - iv) Agglutinating languages; and
 - v) Synthetic languages.
- b) Briefly distinguish the terms GENEALOGICAL and TYPOLOGICAL classification of languages. (5)
- c) With the aid of examples, briefly explain what a Proto-language is. (5)

SECTION B

Question 5

With illustrations from any Bantu language, discuss the criteria proposed by Guthrie for identifying languages as belonging to the Bantu family. [25 marks]

Question 6

Discuss critically August Schleicher's Theory of Language Development. [25 marks]

Question 7

- a) Giving one example for each argument, briefly discuss 2 weaknesses of the 16th Century English recorders of Bantu terms. (4)
- b) According to Doke and Cole (1961), Andrew Sparrman (1772-1776) observed that 'Hottentots use clicks, and distinguished them from Bantu in that Bantu languages do not use clicks'. Critically, evaluate the above statement. (3)
- c) What was Plato's contribution in the field of phonetics? (6)
- d) Using examples from relevant languages discuss four morphological characteristics of the South Eastern zone. (12)

[25 marks]