

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2009

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. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.**
 - 3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.**
 - 4. ALL EXAMPLES IN OTHER LANGUAGES 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) Distinguish between the following linguistic terms and concepts. Support your argument with examples:

- i) oral and nasal speech sound;
- ii) voiced and voiceless speech sound; (12)
- iii) Egressive and ingressive speech sound; and
- iv) Pulmonic and glottalic airstream mechanism.

- b) Write the IPA symbols representing the following phonetic descriptions:

- i) A voiced alveolar fricative;
- ii) A voiced velar implosive;
- iii) A uvular nasal;
- iv) A voiceless glottal stop; and (5)
- v) A voiceless alveopalatal fricative;

- c) With examples from any language, discuss four disadvantages of using spelling; instead of phonetic symbols in representing speech sounds. (8)

[25 marks]

Question 2

- a) Give a brief account of the place and manner of articulation as well as the glottal activity involved in the production of the following speech sounds:

- i) [dʒ]
- ii) [ŋ]
- iii) [d] (15)
- iv) [x]
- v) [ɸ]

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

- i) **bath** – **bathe**;
- ii) **reduce** – **reduction**; and (6)

- iii) impolite- indecent.
- c) For each set of three words, which one begins with a different speech sound? Consider only the first sound in each word.

Example: every – each – else: *each* begins with a different sound.

- i) scale – state – shall;
ii) again – opponent – all; (4)
iii) throne – thy – these; and
iv) jelly – giving – gentlemen.

[25 marks]

SECTION B

PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY

Choose one question from this section

Question 3

- a) Each of the following groups of sounds consists of members of a natural class, plus one sound which is not a member of that class:
- i) [k^w, v, p, r, f, m]
ii) [f, n, g, p, d, m]
iii) [e, a, i, ɔ, ε]
1. Identify the sound that is not a member of the class. (3)
2. Name the feature(s) that define the class to which the remaining sound belongs. (In some cases there will be more than one choice. You are asked to find only one.) (3)
- (b) Using phonetic cover terms formalize the following rules expressed in ordinary English words:
- a. A consonant is fronted after the vowel /e/.
b. A consonant is labialized when it precedes the vowel /o/. (6)
c. A voiceless bilabial stop is aspirated when it occurs word-initially.

- (c) Using distinctive features, formalize the following rules:
- i) A vowel or a glide is inserted between consonants.
 - ii) The vowel /u/ is deleted before the vowel /a/.
 - iii) A voiced stop becomes voiceless in word-final position. (9)
- d) Using examples from any language, distinguish between an accidental gap and a systematic gap. (4)

[25 marks]

Question 4

- a) Consider the following data from an African language called Maninka:

| | | | |
|------|-----------|--------|-------------|
| bugo | 'hit' | bugoli | 'hitting' |
| dila | 'repair' | dilali | 'repairing' |
| don | 'come in' | donni | 'coming in' |
| dumu | 'eat' | dumuni | 'eating' |
| gwen | 'chase' | gwenni | 'chasing' |

- i) What are the two forms for the morpheme '-ing' in Maninka? (2)
- ii) Can you predict which phonetic form will occur? If so, state the rule. (3)
- iii) What are the '-ing' forms for the following verbs:

1. da 'lie down'
2. men 'hear' (4)
3. famu 'understand'
4. sunogo 'sleep'

- b) The following data is from Hungarian. The morphemes in a word are connected by a hyphen (thus, for example, 'haz-ban' is one word with two morphemes). Answer the questions below the data:

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| a haz | the house | a haz-ak | the houses |
| a haz-ban | in the house | a haz-ak-ban | in the houses |
| a haz-uk-ban | in their house | a haz-ik-ban | in their houses |

- i) What is the morpheme for 'house'?
- ii) What is the morpheme for 'in'?
- iii) What is the morpheme for PLURAL? (5)
- iv) What is the morpheme for 'their'?

c) Assign a morphological tree structure for each of the following words:

- i) bitter sweet;
- ii) unloosen (6)
- iii) exactly

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

- i) UNICEF
- ii) motel
- iii) peddle
- iv) sandwich (5)
- v) headstrong

[25 marks]

Syntax, Semantics and Pragmatics

Answer *one question* from Section C and *one question* from Section D. Read the instructions carefully before you start writing.

Section C: Syntax

Question 5

Answer each of the five (5) questions below.

- a. Give three (3) examples of phrase structure rules, including a rule for Sentence (S). (5 marks)
- b. Use all these rules to draw a phrase structure tree of a sentence of a language of your choice. Label all nodes in this tree. (5 marks)
- c. Identify the subject in this sentence. Use the tree to explain why it is the subject. (5 marks)
- d. Identify all instances of direct domination in this tree. (5 marks)
- e. Identify all examples of phrase-level constituents in this tree. (5 marks)

Question 6

- a. What is meant by “the infinity of language”? (7 marks)
- b. Illustrate your answer with at least two (2) examples from different languages of your choice. (6 marks)
- c. Use the concept of recursion to explain how contemporary syntactic theory accounts for the infinity of language. (7 marks)
- d. Include at least one (1) phrase structure tree in your answer. (5 marks)

[25 marks]

Section D: Semantics and Pragmatics

Question 7

Define the pairs of terms in (a)-(e). Illustrate each of your answers with examples from at least two (2) languages of your choice.

- a. antonym and gradable antonym (5 marks)
- b. analytic sentence and contradiction (5 marks)
- c. sense and reference (5 marks)
- d. performative verbs and speech acts (5 marks)
- e. maxims of relevance and manner (5 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 8

- a. What is the literal meaning of the sentence “Can you pass the salt?” (7 marks)
- b. What is the usual illocutionary intent of “Can you pass the salt?” (7 marks)
- c. Use the maxims of conversation to explain the difference between the literal meaning and the usual illocutionary intent. (11 marks)

[25 marks]