UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES

MAIN EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER, MAY 2009

TITLE OF PAPER	:	**INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS**
COURSE CODE	:	**AL200/IDE-AL200**
TIME ALLOWED	:	**THREE (3) HOURS**
INSTRUCTIONS	:	1. ANSWER **FOUR** (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.
		2. ANSWER **QUESTION** 1 AND ANY OTHER QUESTION IN SECTION A.
		3. ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION B AND ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION C.
		4. READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU START WRITING.

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SECTION A
PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY

Answer Question 1 and any other question in this section.

Question 1

Kikuyu verb conjugation

The following forms illustrate two verb tenses in Kikuyu. Tones are indicated as follows:

á = high
a = low (unmarked)

		"look at"	"send"
A.	Current imperfect		
	1. 'We are V-ing'	torɔraɣa	totomáɣa
	2. 'We are V-ing him/her	tomorɔraɣa	tomotomáɣa
	3. 'We are V-ing them'	tomarɔ́raɣa	tomatómáɣa
	4. 'They are V-ing'	márɔ́raɣa	mátómáɣa
	5. 'They are V-ing him/her'	mámórɔraɣa	mámótomáɣa
	6. 'They are V-ing them'	mámárɔ́raɣa	mámátómáɣa
B.	Current past		
	7. 'We V-ed'	torɔrirɛ	totomírɛ
	8. 'We V-ed him/her'	tomorɔrirɛ	tomotomírɛ
	9. 'We V-ed them'	tomarɔ́rirɛ	tomatómírɛ
	10. 'They V-ed'	márɔ́rirɛ	mátómírɛ
	11. 'The V-ed him/her'	mámórɔrirɛ	mámótomírɛ
	12. 'The V-ed them'	mámárɔ́rirɛ	mámátómírɛ

a) Identify the following morphemes, ignoring the tone:

'Look at'
'Send'
'1st person plural subject'
'3rd person plural subject'
'3rd person singular object'
'3rd person plural object'
'Current imperfect'
'Current past'

(8)

b) Propose an underlying tone for each of the morphemes you identified in (a) above. (8)

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c) Using an Autosegmental analysis account for the tonal differences at the surface level. Support your argument by analysing examples (3) and (9) from the data provided above. (9)

[25 marks]

Question 2

a) Use distinctive features to formalize the following phonological rules:
   i) When two non-labial high vowels follow each other the non-labial glide is inserted between them. (4)
   ii) When two labial high vowels follow each other the labial glide is inserted between them. (4)
   iii) Using the alpha notation, collapse rules (i) and (ii). (4)

b) Using illustrations, give a brief description of the following linguistic terms:

   i) A trochaic foot
   ii) Apocope (9)
   iii) Partial regressive assimilation

c) Syllabify the following words:
   i) syntax
   ii) introduction (4)

[25 marks]

Question 3

a) Consider the data below from Ndali, a Bantu language spoken in Tanzania and Malawi, and answer the questions which follow:

SINGULAR	PLURAL	
ululete	indete	reed(s)
ululeŋga	indeleŋga	cock's comb(s)
ulukisi	iŋgisi	louse/lice
ulupembe	imbebe	horn(s)
uluβafu	imbafu	rib(s)
ulwanda	iɲanda	stomach(s)
uluyewo	indʒewo	gossip(s)
ulwimbo	iɲimbo	song(s)

   i) List the allomorphs of the prefix in the plural forms and account for their distribution. (4)

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ii) Account for the variation of the stem-initial segment in each singular/plural pair, wherever such variation occurs in the data provided above. (8)

b) Consider the data below from Tagalog:

sulat	'write'
sinulat	'was written'
susulat	'will write'
basag	'break'
binasag	'was broken'
bumabasag	'is breaking'
babasag	'will break'

Describe the process involved in the formation of the following:
i) past tense;
ii) present tense progressive; and (6)
iii) future tense.

c) According to Trubetzkoy's theory of distinctive oppositions;

"The same phonetic segments distinguished by the same phonetic features can stand in a neutralizable opposition in one language and in a constant opposition in another". Provide evidence to support this statement along with relevant examples. (7)

[25 marks]

Syntax and Semantics

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

Section B: Syntax

Question 4

a. What is the difference between pronominals and reflexive pronouns? (6 marks)

b. Illustrate your answer with at least two (2) examples from different languages of your choice. (5 marks)

c. Explain how contemporary syntactic theory accounts for coreference or the lack of coreference in the interpretation of pronominals and reflexive pronouns. (9 marks)

d. Include at least one (1) tree in XP notation in your answer. (5 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 5

a. Define heads, specifiers and complements. (6 marks)

b. Illustrate your answers with a tree in XP notation. (5 marks)

c. Include at least two (2) examples of each of these from a language or languages of your choice. (6 marks)

d. Is Infl a head, a specifier or a complement? (3 marks)

e. Give one (1) example of Infl from a language of your choice. (5 marks)

[25 marks]

Section C: Semantics

Question 6

Define the pairs of terms in (1)-(5). Illustrate each of your answers with examples from a language or languages of your choice.

a.	intension and extension	(5 marks)
b.	thematic roles and argument structures	(5 marks)
c.	lexicalization and grammaticalization	(5 marks)
d.	fuzzy concepts and graded membership	(5 marks)
e.	paraphrase and entailment	(5 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 7

a. Define new information, old information and topics. (9 marks)

b. Give an example from a language of your choice in which the topic is the same as old information and explain why it is an example. (8 marks)

c. Give an example from a language of your choice in which the topic is the same as new information and explain why it is an example. (8 marks)

[25 marks]

End of Question Paper