

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2009

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 IN OTHER LANGUAGES 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

Choose two questions from this section

Question 1

According to Robins (1990:53) the Greco-Roman era may be considered to have been a period of unified civilization around the Mediterranean region. Discuss.

[25 marks]

Question 2

- a) Amongst the ancient Greek philosophers, "...questions about language were considered within the terms of somewhat interrelated controversies (Robins, 1990:21).

Discuss the Analogy- Anomaly controversy and, with examples, evaluate the position of Varro in this controversy. (10)

- b) Historical linguistics and Comparative linguistics are somehow related but different. Explain. (5)

- c) A. Dante attributed the development of different languages to "the passage of time and the geographical dispersion of speakers of a given language". Discuss. (10)

[25 marks]

Question 3

Discuss and critically evaluate August.Schleicher's typological classification of languages.

[25 marks]

Question 4

- a) With examples from any language, explain the following linguistic terms and concepts:

- i) Geographical classification of languages; and (3)
ii) Synthetic morphological systems. (4)

- b) With examples, discuss **three** disadvantages of a Genealogical classification of languages. (9)

- c) Word order patterns in languages are derived from simple declarative sentences. With **three** examples, briefly discuss problems that would be encountered if any type of sentence would be used to suggest the word order pattern of English. (9)

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Choose two questions from this section

Question 5

- a) Draw family tree diagrams to represent Richard Lepsius's classification of African languages. (10)
- b) List ten of the characteristics which Lepsius followed in his classification of Bantu languages. (15)

[25 marks]

Question 6

Discuss

- i) Five ways in which the phonological characteristics of the Nguni groups of languages are different from those of the Sotho group.
- ii) Five ways in which the grammatical characteristics of the two groups of languages are different.

[25 marks]

Question 7

- a) The following scholars/recorders made significant contributions to Bantu linguistic studies. Give one major contribution by each one of them:

- i) Egyptian sources;
- ii) Father Andre Fernandez;
- iii) Father Pedro Dias, S.J.;
- iv) Giacinto Bruciotto; (14)
- v) John Bennie;
- vi) James Bryant; and
- vii) Father Cardoso.

- b) Give your opinion regarding J. Torrend's classification of South African Bantu languages. (5)

- c) Evaluate Boyce's contribution to the study of language as contained in the introduction to Archbell's *Grammar of the Bechuana Language*. (6)

[25 marks]

Question 8

Discuss the contributions made to Bantu linguistic studies by J.W Appleyard.

[25 marks]