

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: DECEMBER 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 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) The following transcription represents one person's reading of this passage. Write out the passage using Standard English orthography.

[ɪt ɪz pɔsəbl tə trænskraɪb fənɛtɪklɪ ɛnɪ ʌtrɛns, ɪn ɛnɪ læŋgwɪdʒ, ɪn sɛvrəl dɪfrɛnt weɪz ɔl əv ðəm juːzɪŋ ðɪ ælfəbet ənd kənvenʃənz əv ðɪ aɪ pɪ eɪ. (ðə seɪm θɪŋ ɪz pɔsəbl wɪð moʊst ɪntənəʃənəl fənɛtɪk ælfəbet) ə trænskɪrɪpʃn wɪtʃ ɪz mɛrd bɑɪ juːzɪŋ lɛtəz əv ðə sɪmplɛst pɔsəbl ʃeɪps, ənd ɪn ðə sɪmplɛst pɔsəbl nʌmbə, ɪz kɔld ə sɪmpl fəʊnɪmɪk trænskɪrɪpʃn] (16)

- (b) Write the IPA symbols representing the following phonetic descriptions, and illustrate each of the sounds with a word in a language that contains the sound:

- (i) Voiced labiodental fricative
- (ii) Voiced palatal affricate
- (iii) Uvular nasal stop
- (iv) Low front unrounded vowel
- (v) High tense unrounded front vowel (9)
- (vi) Voiceless pharyngeal fricative
- (vii) Voiceless lateral alveolar fricative
- (viii) Alveolar lateral liquid
- (ix) High back tense unrounded vowel

[25 marks]

Question 2

- a) Distinguish between the following linguistic terms and concepts. For each argument give an example from any language:

- i) aspirated and unaspirated
- ii) voiced and voiceless (15)
- iii) Pulmonic and glottalic airstream mechanism

b) Using the phonetic alphabet, transcribe the following English words as you pronounce them in casual speech:

- i) chioce
- ii) accept
- iii) horse
- iv) took
- v) coughs
- vi) through (10)
- vii) often
- viii) filed
- ix) field
- x) syntax

[25 marks]

SECTION B

PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY

Choose one question from this section

Question 3

(a) Consider the following forms from IciBemba, a Bantu language spoken in Zambia, and then answer the questions that follow:

alalanda	“s/he speaks
ulalanda	“you (singular) speak”
tulalanda	“we speak”
mulalanda	“you (plural) speak”
balalanda	“they speak”
ndalanda	“I speak”
nkalanda	“I will speak”
tukalanda	“we will speak”

- i) What is the morpheme for “I”? (2)
- ii) What is the present tense morpheme? (2)
- iii) Which are the allomorphs of the present tense morpheme? (2)
- iv) State the distribution of the allomorphs you identified in (3) above. (5)
- v) Given that [tatubwela] means “we do not come”, how would you say the following in IciBemba?

- i) They do not come
 - ii) I will come
 - iii) You (plural) come
- (9)

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

- 1. street light
 - 2. Rob
 - 3. housekeep
 - 4. empty (Verb)
 - 5. UK
- (5)

[25 marks]

Question 4

What distinctive feature, if any, do the following sets of sound segments share?

- i) vowels and semi vowels;
 - ii) consonants and vowels;
 - iii) stops and affricates;
 - iv) bilabials and rounded vowels;
 - v) liquids and semi vowels
- (5)

c) Using phonetic cover terms formalize the rules expressed in ordinary English words:

- i) A glide is inserted between vowels.
 - ii) A consonant is deleted when it occurs before another consonant.
 - iii) Voiceless stops are aspirated in word-initial position.
- (4)

d) Using distinctive features, formalize the following rules:

- i) A vowel or a glide becomes long at the end of a word.
 - ii) A voiceless consonant becomes voiced between vowels
 - iii) Voiced stops are phonetically realized as voiceless segments in word-final position.
 - iv) A vowel or a glide becomes long before a voiced consonant.
 - v) Using distinctive features, collapse the rules formalised in (i) and (iv).
- (16)

Syntax, Semantics and Pragmatics

Read the questions and instructions carefully before you start writing.

Section C: Syntax

Question 5

Answer Question 5 (a) and any four (4) of Questions 5 (b)-(g).

- (a) Draw a complete phrase structure tree for the following sentence:
John painted the picture in the kitchen in the library. [5 marks]
- (b) Identify two (2) sets of sisters in the tree in Question 5 (a) and explain why they are sisters. [5 marks]
- (c) Identify one (1) example of direct domination and one (1) example of indirect domination in the tree in Question 5 (a) and explain why they are examples. [5 marks]
- (d) Identify each phrase-level category and each word-level category in the tree in Question 5 (a). [5 marks]
- (e) Identify two (2) examples of constituents in the tree in Question 5 (a) using the Cleft test and the Substitution test for each example. [5 marks]
- (f) Give the phrase structure rules required to draw the tree in Question 5 (a). [5 marks]
- (g) Is sentence (a) ambiguous? Explain why or why not? [5 marks]

[25 marks total]

Section D: Semantics and Pragmatics

Question 6

Define five (5) of the following pairs of terms and give examples to illustrate your definitions. Linguistic or cultural examples may be from any language or culture of your choice.

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|-------|--|-----------|
| (i) | literal meaning and conversational implicature | [5 marks] |
| (ii) | illocutionary intent and illocutionary force | [5 marks] |
| (iii) | Cooperative Principle and speech acts | [5 marks] |
| (iv) | Maxim of Relevance and Maxim of Manner | [5 marks] |
| (v) | Maxim of Quality and Maxim of Quantity | [5 marks] |
| (vi) | antonym and hyponym | [5 marks] |
| (vii) | lexical ambiguity and syntactic ambiguity | [5 marks] |

[25 marks total]

End of Question Paper