

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2010

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

Choose one question from this section

Question 1

- a) Provide a three term label description of each of the sounds represented by the following IPA symbols:

[k'] [w] [ŋ] [dʒ] [d] [!] [R] [j] (16)

Example: [f]	Glottal activity	Manner	Place
	Voiceless	fricative	labiodental

- b) Transcribe phonetically the siSwati items which follow:

- | | | | |
|-------|---------|------------|-----|
| i) | jova | 'inject' | |
| ii) | bala | 'count' | |
| iii) | tsenga | 'buy' | |
| iv) | phisa | 'brew' | |
| v) | luhleko | 'laughter' | (9) |
| vi) | ngena | 'enter' | |
| viii) | inyama | 'meat' | |
| ix) | yosa | 'grill' | |
| x) | imfene | 'baboon' | |

[25 marks]

Question 2

- a) With the aid of illustrations from any language(s), briefly explain what you understand by the following linguistic terms and concepts:

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------|------|
| i) | Linguistic competence | |
| ii) | Structural ambiguity | (12) |
| iii) | Prescriptive grammar | |

- b) With examples from any language, discuss four disadvantages of using spelling; instead of phonetic symbols in representing speech sounds. (13)

[25 marks]

SECTION B

PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY

Choose one question from this section

Question 3

- a) Using distinctive features, formalize the following phonological rules:
- i) A voiced bilabial stop becomes a voiced bilabial fricative between vowels. (4)
 - ii) The vowel /i/ is deleted before the vowel /e/. (3)
 - iii) A vowel becomes nasalized before a nasal consonant. (3)
- b) Consider the following data from Ganda, a language spoken in Uganda, and do the tasks which follow:

kola	'do'
wawaabira	'accuse'
lwana	'fight'
buulira	'tell'
lya	'eat'
omugole	'bride'
effirimbi	'whistle'
olulimi	'tongue'
wulira	'hear'
omuliro	'fire'
eddwaliro	'hospital'
jjukira	'remember'

- (i) Are the liquids [l] and [r] allophones of the same phoneme in Ganda or do they belong to separate phonemes? (1)
 - (ii) If you believe they belong to separate phonemes, give evidence from the data. If you believe they are allophones of the same phoneme, list the conditioning environments. (5)
- c) With the aid of examples from any language, define each of the following linguistic terms and concepts.
- (i) allomorph;
 - (ii) accidental gaps; (9)
 - (iii) allophones in free variation

[25 marks]

Question 4

- (a) From the Swahili sentences below, work out the lexical and grammatical forms which correspond to the English elements in the English translation.

waliondoka	“they left”	
niliwapika	“I cooked them”	
nitaondoka	“I will leave”	
utawauza	“You will sell them”	(10)
tutapita	“We will pass by”	

- (b) Consider the following data from Sierra Popoluca (spoken in Mexico):

ka:ma	‘cornfield’	ko:ya	‘rabbit’
aŋkama	‘my cornfield’	aŋko:ya	‘my rabbit’
ika:ma	‘his cornfield’	iko:ya	‘his rabbit’
iŋkama	‘your cornfield’	iŋko:ya	‘your rabbit’
way	‘hair’	ka:pay	‘sister-in-law’
aŋway	‘my hair’	aŋka:pay	‘my sister-in-law’
iway	‘his hair’	ika:pay	‘his sister-in-law’
iŋway	‘your hair’	iŋka:pay	‘your sister-in-law’

- i) Give the Sierra Popoluca morpheme which corresponds to the following English translation:
1. “my”
 2. “his”
 3. “your”
- (3)
- ii) What type of affixes are the Sierra Popoluca morphemes in (i) above?
(1)
- iii) List all the other morphemes occurring in (b) above (Give the Sierra Popoluca morpheme and the English gloss).
(8)
- iv) Formulate a general statement about how to form the possessive form of nouns in Sierra Popoluca.
(3)

[25 marks]

Syntax, Semantics and Pragmatics

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

Section C: Syntax

Question 5

Use the following English sentence (a) to answer questions (i)-(iii).

(a) Joseph planted the flowers in the garden in the greenhouse.

(i) Draw a phrase structure tree diagram for this sentence. [5 marks]

(ii) Use the tree diagram you drew in (i) to illustrate the concepts of constituency, indirect domination and sisters. [10 marks]

(iii) Use the tree diagram you drew in (i) to explain why sentence (a) cannot mean that the flowers which are now in the greenhouse were planted in the garden. [10 marks]

[25 marks total]

Question 6

Use phrase structure rules to explain the following terms. Illustrate each of your answers with examples from a language of your choice.

- | | | |
|-------|----------------------|-----------|
| (i) | infinity of language | [9 marks] |
| (ii) | recursion | [9 marks] |
| (iii) | constituency | [7 marks] |

[25 marks total]

Section D: Semantics and Pragmatics

Question 7

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

- | | | |
|-------|--|-----------|
| (i) | synonym and homonym | (5 marks) |
| (ii) | literal meaning and pragmatic meaning | (5 marks) |
| (iii) | Maxim of Relevance and Maxim of Quality | (5 marks) |
| (iv) | speech acts and illocutionary intent | (5 marks) |
| (v) | illocutionary force and perlocutionary force | (5 marks) |

[25 marks total]

Question 8

Use the following sentence to answer questions (i)-(iii):

(a) Mary has three children.

(i) Give an example of a context in which sentence (a) does not violate the Maxim of Quantity and explain why it is an example. [7 marks]

(ii) Give an example of a context in which sentence (a) does violate the Maxim of Quantity and explain why it is an example. [7 marks]

(iii) Define the Cooperative Principle. Which of the two contexts given in Questions (i) and (ii) involves a violation of the Cooperative Principle? Give reasons for your choice. [11 marks]

[25 marks total]

End of Question Paper