

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2010

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

COURSE NUMBER: AL200/IDE-AL200

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A.**
 - 3. CHOOSE ONE (1) QUESTION FROM SECTION B.**
 - 4. CHOOSE ONE (1) QUESTION FROM SECTION C.**
 - 5. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SECTION A

PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY

Answer Question 1 and any other question in this section.

Question 1

(a) Each of the languages below illustrates a different kind of pattern of word stress.

(i) Describe, in words, the stress pattern of each language.

1. Latin

(i)	véri:ta:s	'truth'	
(ii)	hóminem	'man (accusative case)'	
(iii)	dí:kere	'to speak'	
(iv)	diksísti	'you spoke'	
(v)	míttutur	'he was sent'	(3 marks)
(vi)	mittúntur	'they were sent'	
(vii)	veritá:tem	'truth (accusative case)'	
(viii)	amí:cus	'friend'	

2. Huasteco

(i)	cijó:k	'chin'	
(ii)	ya:ní:l	'many times'	
(iii)	ʔá:ulom	'field of garlic'	
(iv)	ʔalabé:l	'pretty'	(3 marks)
(v)	bí:nomac	'one who gave'	
(vi)	hílkoma	'leftover'	
(vii)	cálam	'shade'	

3. Weri

(i)	ɲintíp	'bee'	
(ii)	kùlipú	'hair of arm'	(3 marks)
(iii)	ulùamít	'mist'	
(iv)	àkunètepál	'times'	

4. Araucanian

(i)	wulé	'tomorrow'	
(ii)	tipánto	'year'	
(iii)	elúmuyù	'give us'	(3 marks)
(iv)	elúaènew	'he will give us'	
(v)	kimúbalùwulày	'he pretended not to know'	

For the languages in (a) above stress is indicated as follows:

á = primary stress

à = secondary stress

- (ii) Give the stress pattern you would predict for the word below in each language: [vidolfi:liba:] (4 marks)

- b) The following data illustrate two suffixes in Mende, a language spoken in both Liberia and Sierra Leone. Notice in the data that all suffixes bear tone, but the tone varies on different words.

kɔ	'war'	kɔma	'on war'	kɔhu	'in war'
pɛɛ	'house'	pɛɛma	'on (the) house'	pɛɛhu	'in (the) house'
bɛɛ	'trousers'	bɛɛma	'on trousers'	bɛɛhu	'in trousers'
ngila	'dog'	ngilama	'on (the) dog'	ngilahu	'in (the) dog'

In the above examples, tones are indicated as follows:

á = high

à = low

Based on the data above, account for the differences in tone on the suffixes for 'on' and 'in' in Mende. State your solution with autosegmental notation. (Hint: Assume that the suffixes have no tone to begin with, but that the words to which they are attached do have tone). (9 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 2

- (a) Study the Shona nouns given below and answer the questions that follow:

Verb		Noun	
1. tuma	"send"	N-tuma → ndume	"messenger"
2. βesa	"carve"	N-βesa → mbeso	"adze"

- i) Explain how the process of homorganic nasal assimilation operated in the derivation of nouns from verbs in Shona. (4marks)

- ii) Account for the difference in the stem-initial segment in [ndume] and /N-tuma/ in (1) and between [mbeso] and /N-βesa/ in (2) above. (8 marks)

(b) Write the following words in phonetic notation and place the words in their syllables:

- (i) articulation
(ii) acknowledgement
(iii) after thought (13 marks)
(iv) affectionately
(v) white wash

[25 marks]

Question 3

(a) Consider the following data from Latin

1. agrico-la aqu-am vide-t.
2. cib-um agrico-la vide-t.
3. agrico-la hort-um vide-t.
4. av-us cib-um vide-t.
5. avuncul-us av-um adjuva-t.
6. fili-a hort-um ama-t.
7. vacc-a aqu-am bibi-t.
8. hirc-us cib-um edi-t.
9. vitul-um av-us adjuva-t.
10. vacc-a vitul-um pari-t.

-us *masculine nominative sg.*
-um *masculine accusative sg.*
-a *feminine nominative sg.*
-am *feminine accusative sg.*
-t *past tense marker*
vide 'see'
lava 'wash'
ama 'love'

pull 'chick'
aqu 'water'
bibi 'drink'
hirc 'goat'
pari 'bear'
fili 'daughter'
avuncul 'uncle'
oscula 'kiss'

vacc 'cow'
vitul 'calf'
hort 'garden'
cib 'food'
agricol 'farmer'
av 'grandfather'
adjuva 'help'
edi 'eat'

Give the meanings of each of the sentences in (1) to (10). (10 marks)

- (b) According to Trubetzkoy's theory of distinctive oppositions, "the same phonetic segments distinguished by the same phonetic features can stand in a multilateral opposition in one language and in a bilateral opposition in another language". Provide evidence to support this statement along with relevant examples.

(7 marks)

(c) Indicate the phonetic symbol that is represented by each of the feature matrices presented below:

-cons
+son
-back
+high
-round

-cons
-son
-cont
-voiced
+dorsal
-del rel

+cons
+cont
-strid
+cor
+ant
+voiced

+cons
+nasal
+cor
+ant

(8 marks)

[25marks]

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

Define the terms in (a)-(j). Illustrate each of your answers with an example from a language of your choice.

- a) head (2 ½ marks)
- b) specifier (2 ½ marks)
- c) complement (2 ½ marks)
- d) InflP (2 ½ marks)
- e) complementizer (2 ½ marks)
- f) agent (2 ½ marks)
- g) subject (2 ½ marks)
- h) object (2 ½ marks)
- i) passive (2 ½ marks)
- j) embedded clause (2 ½ marks)

[25 marks]

Question 5

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

- a) discontinuous dependency (5 marks)
- b) constituent question (5 marks)
- c) yes-no question (5 marks)
- d) predicate-argument structure (5 marks)
- e) subject-verb inversion (5 marks)

[25 marks]

Section C: Semantics and Information Structure

Question 7

Define the terms in (a)-(j). Illustrate each of your answers with an example from a language of your choice.

- a) connotation (2 ½ marks)
- b) contrast (2 ½ marks)
- c) truth conditions (2 ½ marks)
- d) indefiniteness (2 ½ marks)
- e) paraphrase (2 ½ marks)
- f) topic (2 ½ marks)
- g) entailment (2 ½ marks)
- h) referentiality (2 ½ marks)
- i) contradiction (2 ½ marks)
- j) denotation (2 ½ marks)

[25 marks]

Question 8

Give one example of each of the following. Include enough detail about the context of each example to make it understandable.

- a) A topic that is also a new information (5 marks)
- b) Old information that is also a comment (5 marks)
- c) Referential information that is also definite (5 marks)
- d) Referential information that is also indefinite (5 marks)
- e) Non-referential information that is also indefinite (5 marks)

[25 marks]

End of Question Paper