

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 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

In Margi, a language spoken in West Africa, when the definite suffix [-ári] is added to a stem to create a sequence of vowels, there is either vowel gliding or vowel deletion. Notice in the data below that the tone of the suffix varies.

		Definite	
(i)	sál	sálári	'man'
(ii)	kùm	kùmári	'meat'
(iii)	tágú	tágwári	'horse'
(iv)	kú	kwári	'goat'
(v)	ú?ù	ú?wári	'fire'
(vi)	hù	hwári	'grave'
(vii)	cédè	céděri	'money'
(viii)	fà	fāri	'farm'

In the examples above tone is indicated as follows:

á = high tone

à = low tone

Task

Account for the differences in tone at the surface level. State your solution with autosegmental notation. Support your argument by analysing examples (ii), (iv), (v), and (vii). (16 marks)

- b) The data below indicates that speakers of Bakwiri play a linguistic game to disguise their speech.

	Normal	Disguised	Gloss
1.	mòkò	kòmò	'plantain'
2.	lówá	wáló	'excrement'
3.	kwélí	líkwé	'death'
4.	kóndi	ndíkò	'rice'
5.	liyé	yèlí	'stone'
6.	lùùngá	ngààlú	'stomach'
7.	zééyá	yáázé	'burn'

- i) Formulate rules that determine how the game is played. (4 marks)
- ii) Using an Autosegmental analysis show how your analysis works to transform [lùùngá] into ngààlú. (5 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 2

Consider the following forms from Diegueño spoken in Baja California, and then answer the questions that follow:

- | | | |
|-----|------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | ʔa:kat | “I cut a long object” |
| 2. | ma:kat | “You cut a long object” |
| 3. | a:kat | “He cuts a long object” |
| 4. | ʔəʔfu:kat | “I bite off” |
| 5. | məʔfu:kat | “You bite off” |
| 6. | ʔfu:kat | “He bites off” |
| 7. | mətu:kat | “You cut into chunks” |
| 8. | tu:kat | “He cuts into chunks” |
| 9. | ʔa:mar | “I cover a long object” |
| 10. | ma:malʔ | “You weep” |
| 11. | məʔfu:xʷar | “You chew” |
| 12. | ʔfu:kʷar | “He makes a speech” |
| 13. | ʔətu:mar | “I cover a chunky object” |
| 14. | ʔətalʔ | “My mother” |
| 15. | mətalʔ | “Your mother” |
| 16. | ʔətalʔʔ | “Our mother” |
| 17. | mətalʔʔ | “Your (plural) mother” |

- (a) Give the Diegueño morpheme which corresponds to the following English translation:

- i) I;
- ii) you (singular);
- iii) he;
- iv) cut a long object;
- v) cover a long object;
- vi) cut into chunks;
- vii) make(s) a speech;
- viii) cover;
- ix) weep;
- x) chew;
- xi) mother;

(15 marks)

- xii) my;
- xiii) our
- xiv) your (plural);
- xv) bite off.

(b) State one phonological rule that will derive the following surface structures from their basic structures: (4 marks)

- i) ?əʃu:kət "I bite off"
- ii) mətəlʹ "Your mother"

(c) How would you say the following in Diegueño?

- i) He chews
- ii) I make a speech (6 marks)
- iii) You cover a long object

[25 marks]

Question 3

a) Assign a morphological tree structure to each of the following words:

- (i) gentlemanly
- (ii) boyish
- (iii) after thought (15 marks)
- (iv) stone age cave dweller
- (v) singer

b) Explain each of the following linguistic terms. Support your explanation with one example from any language:

- (i) partial assimilation
- (ii) morpheme
- (iii) phoneme (10 marks)
- (iv) syncope
- (v) compensatory lengthening

[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

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| a) predicate | (2 ½ marks) |
| b) argument | (2 ½ marks) |
| c) direct object | (2 ½ marks) |
| d) patient | (2 ½ marks) |
| e) head of S | (2 ½ marks) |
| f) complementizer phrase | (2 ½ marks) |
| g) main clause | (2 ½ marks) |
| h) X-bar schema | (2 ½ marks) |
| i) patient | (2 ½ marks) |
| j) endocentric category | (2 ½ marks) |

[25 marks]

Question 5

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

- grammatical relations
- thematic roles
- active and passive
- subject-verb inversion in yes-no questions
- discontinuous dependency

[25 marks]

Section C: Semantics and Information Structure

Question 6

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

- a) reference (2 ½ marks)
- b) contrast (2 ½ marks)
- c) truth conditions (2 ½ marks)
- d) definiteness (2 ½ marks)
- e) paraphrase (2 ½ marks)
- f) comment (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 7

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

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

[25 marks]

End of Question Paper