

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2010

B.A. DEGREE

**TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL AND
COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS
(WESTERN & BANTU)**

COURSE NUMBER: AL401/IDE-AL401

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.**
 - 3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.**
 - 4. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING, AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.**
 - 5. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**

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

SECTION A

LEXICOSTATISTICS AND GLOTTOCHRONOLOGY

Answer Question 1

Question 1

Examine the shared cognate percentage figures for the following ten hypothetical languages:

A									
68	B								
13	11	C							
39	37	9	D						
39	36	8	66	E					
35	33	10	67	65	F				
37	35	9	57	53	50	G			
30	33	36	54	56	33	34	H		
22	28	27	53	51	46	57	67	I	
31	24	21	56	54	47	58	66	69	J

With reference to the above data,

- (i) Find out which languages are most closely related to each other and group them accordingly. (3 marks)
- (ii) Work out the shared cognate percentages between the different groups, to find the second level of linguistic relationship. (8 marks)
- (iii) Show the relationship of these languages in a family tree diagram. (5 marks)
- (iv) Estimate according to glottochronology the period of time the following languages may have separated from each other:

1. Language A from language B
 2. Language C from language H
 3. Language C from language F
- (9 marks)

Note: Use the formula below to work out the time depth:

$$t = \frac{\log C}{2 \log r}$$

The value of r in this formula is set at 0.805

[25 marks]

SECTION B

LINGUISTIC RECONSTRUCTION

Choose one question from this section

Question 2

Examine the data below from Bahasa Indonesia and do the tasks which follow:

	Simple form	Prefixed form
'throw'	lempar	məlempar
'feel'	rasa	mərasa
'convince'	yakin	məyakin
'cook'	masak	məmasak
'marry'	nikah	mənikah
'chat'	ḡaco	məḡaco
'sing'	ḡari	məḡari
'draw a picture'	gambar	məḡgambar
'send'	irim	məḡirim
'hear'	dəḡar	məndəḡar
'write'	tulis	mənulis
'help'	bantu	məmbantu
'hit'	pukul	məpukul
'sew'	dəḡahit	məndəḡahit
'note down'	tḡatat	məntḡatat
'take'	ambil	məḡambil
'fill up'	isi	məḡisi
'invite'	undang	məḡundang

- (i) Use the internal method of reconstruction to suggest what the original form of the prefix might have been. (2 marks)
- (ii) Identify those words whose prefixes have undergone changes and give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms, to show how they have changed. (14 marks)
- (iii) Identify the words that have retained their original forms of prefixes and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. (9 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 3

Consider the data below from Spanish, Sardinian, and Rumanian, all of which are Romance languages, and answer the questions which follow:

Spanish	Sardinian	Rumanian	
hilo	filu	fir	'thread'
vida	bita	vita	'life'
vino	binu	vin	'wine'
riva	riba	ripa	'bank'
rio	riu	riu	'river'
riso	rizu	ris	'laugh'

- a) Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the six items provided in the data. (6 marks)
- b) Wherever the proto-word has changed in the daughter language, name the daughter language and state the phonological process which took place during the development of the daughter language. If more than one process occurred, name them all in their order of occurrence. (8 marks)
- c) Using distinctive features, formalise the processes that took place in the development of the following words from the proto language:
i) [vida] 'life' (Spanish).
ii) [ris] 'laugh' (Rumanian). (7 marks)
- d) Given that [muta] is the Sardinian word for 'change', what would be its cognate form in
i) Spanish
ii) Rumanian (4 marks)

[25 marks]

SECTION C

COMPARATIVE BANTU MORPHOLOGY

Choose one question from this section

Question 4

- a) With the aid of examples from Ganda Lamba, discuss the similarities and differences in the operation of Meinhof's Law in the two languages. (8 marks)

- b) With the aid of examples from relevant Bantu languages, discuss the similarities and differences between Meinhof's Law and Kwanyama Law. (5 marks)
- c) Provide a list of Guthrie's Proto-Bantu nominal class number and prefixes (1-15) and show what they become in siSwati. (12 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 5

- a) Study the Lamba data provided below and do the tasks which follow:

-cit-	'do'	-citol-	'do for'
-pat-	'scold'	-patil-	'scold for'
-kunt-	'shake'	-kuntil-	'shake for'
-cet-	'spy'	-cetel-	'spy for'
-sonk-	'pay tax'	-sonkel-	'pay tax for'
-lim-	'cultivate'	-limin-	'cultivate for'
-kan-	'deny'	-kanin-	'deny for'
-pum-	'beat'	-pumin-	'beat for'
-fweny-	'scratch'	-fwenyen-	'scratch for'
-pon-	'fall'	-ponen-	'fall for'

- i) Name the verbal extension found in the data above. (2 marks)
- ii) List the allomorphs of this extension in Lamba, and describe the distribution of the allomorphs. (8 marks)
- b) Compare the Lamba data provided in (a) above with those given below:

-alul-	'change'	-alwil-	'change for'
-cofol-	'bend'	-cofwel-	'bend for'
-kamun-	'tear'	-kamwin-	'tear for'
-konon-	'break'	-konwen-	'break for'

Explain how the extension you mentioned in (a (i)) above operates in these items. (5 marks)

- c) Study the Zulu data provided below, and do the tasks which follow:

-bon-	'see'	-bonw-	'be seen'
-thand-	'love'	-thandw-	'be loved'
-bong-	'praise'	-bongw-	'be praised'
-ph-	'give'	-phiw-	'be given'
-dl-	'eat'	-dliw-	'be eaten'
-mb-	'dig'	-mbiw-	'be dug'

- i) Name the verbal extension found in the data above. (2 marks)

- ii) List the allomorphs of this extension in Zulu, and describe the distribution of the allomorphs on the basis of these data above. (3 marks)
- d) Compare the Zulu data provided in (c) above with those given below, and do the task which follows:
- | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|---------------|
| -tap- | 'gather' | -tatshw- | 'be gathered' |
| -boph- | 'tie' | -boshw- | 'be tied' |
| -hluph- | 'tease' | -hlushw- | 'be teased' |
| -thum- | 'send' | -thunyw- | 'be sent' |
| -lob- | 'write' | -lotshw- | 'be written- |

Account for the morphophonemic changes affecting the final consonant of the base radical in the data above (5 marks)

[25 marks]

SECTION D

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

Choose one question from this section

Question 6

With the aid of illustrations from any relevant language, discuss each of the following linguistic concepts in relation to language change:

- Syntactic borrowing;
- Adstratum borrowing;
- Folk Etymology;
- Taboos and Euphemisms; and
- Semantic shift.

[25 marks]

Question 7

Malcom Guthrie proposed criteria to be used in the identification of languages as belonging to the Bantu family. Discuss and critically evaluate these criteria.

[25 marks]