

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: DECEMBER 2010**

**B.A. DEGREE**

**TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE 1**

**COURSE NUMBER: AL110/IDE-AL110**

**TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
- 2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION, AND THE FOURTH QUESTION FROM ANY 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

#### Question 1

- (a) Provide a **full description** of each of the sounds represented by the following phonetic symbols. Your description should include the place and manner of articulation as well as glottal activity.

[β] [t] [u] [tʰ] [ʔ]

[25 marks]

#### Question 2

- (a) Distinguish between the following linguistic terms and concepts. Give for each argument 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) children
- ii) accept
- iii) coughs
- iv) through (10)
- v) phonetics

[25 marks]

## SECTION B

### PHONOLOGY

#### Question 3

- (a) Name the single feature that distinguishes the following pairs of sounds:

- i) [i] : [ɪ]
- ii) [k] : [x]
- iii) [f] : [v] (7)
- iv) [i] : [e]
- v) [ŋ] : [h]

- vi) [z] : [d]
- vii) [k<sup>h</sup>] : [k]

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

- i) A long vowel is realised as a short one when it occurs in word initial position.
- ii) A consonant is fronted when it occurs before the vowel /i/ or /e/.
- iii) Voiced stops are devoiced when they occur in word-final position. (6)

c) Using distinctive features, formalize the following rules:

- i) The vowel /i/ is deleted before the vowel /e/.
- ii) A voiceless consonant becomes voiced between vowels
- iii) A voiced bilabial fricative becomes a voiced bilabial stop when it occurs after a bilabial nasal. (12)

[25 marks]

#### Question 4

a) Study the data from siSwati presented below:

d <sup>z</sup> ilit'a	'take down'
d <sup>v</sup> onsa	'pull'
d <sup>z</sup> iŋa	'be needy'
d <sup>v</sup> uma	'thunder'
d <sup>v</sup> uɸa	'refuse smth.'
lid <sup>v</sup> olo	'knee'
d <sup>v</sup> ula	'hit heavily'
d <sup>z</sup> aɸula	'tear'
d <sup>z</sup> elela	'offend'
d <sup>z</sup> ad <sup>z</sup> e	'sister'

- i) On the basis of the data, are [ɸ] and [m] separate phonemes or allophones of the same phoneme? If you think they are separate phonemes, provide evidence from the data. If you think they are allophones state their distribution. (6)
- ii) Based on the same data, are the phones [d<sup>z</sup>] and [d<sup>v</sup>] separate phonemes of siSwati or are they allophones of the same phoneme. If you think they are separate phonemes, give your reasons. If you think they are allophones state their distribution. (5)

- iii) Provide a phonemic transcription of the **first six** items presented in the data. (6)
- (b) With the aid of examples from any language, define each of the following linguistic terms and concepts.
- (i) phoneme;
- (ii) accidental gaps; (8)
- (iii) allophones in free variation;
- (iv) near minimal pair.

[25 marks]

### SECTION C

#### MORPHOLOGY

#### Question 5

- (a) 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)
  3. "your"
- ii) What type of affixes are these? (1)
- iii) List all the other morphemes occurring in the data 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)

- (b) From the examples of 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”	

[25 marks]

### Question 6

- a) Consider the following data from an African language called Maninka:

bugo	‘hit’	bugoli	‘hitting’
dila	‘repair’	dilali	‘repairing’
don	‘come in’	donni	‘coming in’
dumu	‘eat’	dumuni	‘eating’
gwen	‘chase’	gwenni	‘chasing’

- i) What are the two forms for the morpheme ‘-ing’ in Maninka? (2)  
 ii) Can you predict which phonetic form will occur? If so, state the rule. (3)  
 iii) What are the ‘-ing’ forms for the following verbs:
1. da ‘lie down’
  2. men ‘hear’ (4)
  3. famu ‘understand’
  4. sunogo ‘sleep’

- b) The following data is from Hungarian. The morphemes in a word are connected by a hyphen (thus, for example, ‘haz-ban’ is one word with two morphemes). Answer the questions below the data:

a haz	the house	a haz-ak	the houses
a haz-ban	in the house	a haz-ak-ban	in the houses
a haz-uk-ban	in their house	a haz-ik-ban	in their houses

- i) What is the morpheme for ‘house’?  
 ii) What is the morpheme for ‘in’?  
 iii) What is the morpheme for PLURAL? (5)  
 iv) What is the morpheme for ‘their’?

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

i) bitter sweet;

ii) unloosen

iii) exactly

(6)

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

i) AIDS

ii) gym

iii) compute

iv) father (verb)

v) blood test

(5)

**[25 marks]**