

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: DECEMBER 2010

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

COURSE NUMBER: AL210/IDE-AL210

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 SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.**
 - 6. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**

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**SECTION A
PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY**

Answer Question 1 and any other question in this section.

Question 1

Kikuyu verb conjugation

The following forms illustrate two verb tenses in Kikuyu. Tones are indicated as follows:

á = high
a = low (unmarked)

A.	Current imperfect	“look at”	“send”
	1. ‘We are V-ing’	torɔɔɾaɾa	totomáɾa
	2. ‘We are V-ing him/her’	tomorɔɔɾaɾa	tomotomáɾa
	3. ‘We are V-ing them’	tomarɔɔɾaɾa	tomatómáɾa
	4. ‘They are V-ing’	márɔɔɾaɾa	mátómáɾa
	5. ‘They are V-ing him/her’	mámórɔɔɾaɾa	mámótomáɾa
	6. ‘They are V-ing them’	mámárɔɔɾaɾa	mámátómáɾa
B.	Current past		
	7. ‘We V-ed’	torɔɔrír é	totomír é
	8. ‘We V-ed him/her’	tomorɔɔrír é	tomotomír é
	9. ‘We V-ed them’	tomarɔɔrír é	tomatómír é
	10. ‘They V-ed’	márɔɔrír é	mátómír é
	11. ‘The V-ed him/her’	mámórɔɔrír é	mámótomír é
	12. ‘The V-ed them’	mámárɔɔrír é	mámátómír é

a) Identify the following morphemes, ignoring the tone:

- ‘Look at’
- ‘Send’
- ‘1st person plural subject’
- ‘3rd person plural subject’
- ‘3rd person singular object’
- ‘3rd person plural object’
- ‘Current imperfect’
- ‘Current past’

(4)

b) Propose an underlying tone for each of the morphemes you identified in (a) above.

(8)

- c) Using an Autosegmental analysis account for the tonal differences at the surface level. Support your argument by analysing examples (5) and (8) from the data provided above. (13)

[25 marks]

Question 2

- a) Use distinctive features to formalize the following phonological rules:
- i) The sequence /a/ /i/ is realised a [e] when a morpheme boundary intervenes between them (4)
 - ii) The sequence /a/ /u/ is realised a [o] when a morpheme boundary intervenes between them (4)
 - iii) Using the alpha notation, collapse rules (i) and (ii). (4)
- b) Using illustrations, give a brief description of the following linguistic terms:
- i) Bidirectional assimilation
 - ii) suprasegmental feature (9)
 - iii) Extrametricality
- c) Write the following words in phonetic notation and place the words in their syllables:
- i) syllabify
 - ii) naughty (4)

[25 marks]

Question 3

- a) Consider the data below from Ndali, a Bantu language spoken in Tanzania and Malawi, and answer the questions which follow:

SINGULAR	PLURAL	
ululete	indete	reed(s)
ululelenga	indelenga	cock's comb(s)
ulukisi	ingisi	louse/lice
ulupembe	imbebe	horn(s)
uluβafu	imbafu	rib(s)
ulwanda	ipanda	stomach(s)
uluyewo	ipdzewo	gossip(s)
ulwimbo	ipimbo	song(s)

- i) List the allomorphs of the prefix in the plural forms (2)
 - ii) Account for the variation of the stem-initial segment in each singular/plural pair, wherever such variation occurs in the data provided above. (8)
- b) Consider the data below from Tagalog:

sulat	'write'
sinulat	'was written'
susulat	'will write'
basag	'break'
binasag	'was broken'
bumabasag	'is breaking'
babasag	'will break'

Describe the process involved in the formation of the following:

- i) past tense;
 - ii) present tense progressive; and (6)
 - iii) future tense.
- c) What is the difference between Trubetzkoy's privative opposition and the binary feature system as exemplified by Chomsky and Halle in SPE. (4)
- d) Assign a morphological tree structure to each of the following words:
- i) deactivated
 - ii) personalize (5)

[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

Consider the following sentence (1):

- (1) What did Mary say that the children stole?

Use sentence (1) to answer any five (5) of the following questions.

- a) Draw a complete X-bar theory phrase-structure tree for this sentence.
[5 marks]
- b) Define V-to-I movement. How many examples of V-to-I movement occur in sentence (1)? Identify any such examples.
[5 marks]
- c) Define subject-verb inversion. How many examples of subject-verb inversion occur in sentence (1)? Identify any such examples.
[5 marks]
- d) Define the X-bar schema. Identify three (3) examples in sentence (1).
[5 marks]
- e) Define a predicate-argument structure. Give one example of a predicate-argument structure from sentence (1) and identify all of its thematic roles.
[5 marks]
- f) Define a specifier. How many examples of specifiers occur in sentence (1)? Identify any such examples.
[5 marks]
- g) Define a patient. How many examples of patients occur in sentence (1)? Identify any such examples.
[5 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

Question 5

Consider the following sentence (2):

- (2) What did John think that Mary bought?

Use sentence (2) to answer any five (5) of the following questions.

- a) Draw a complete X-bar theory phrase-structure tree for this sentence.
[5 marks]
- b) Define a head. How many examples of heads occur in sentence (1)? Identify any such examples.
[5 marks]

- c) Define I-to-C movement. How many examples of I-to-C movement occur in sentence (2)? Identify any such examples. [5 marks]
- d) Define a complement. How many examples of complements occur in sentence (2)? Identify any such examples. [5 marks]
- e) Define an agent. How many examples of agents occur in sentence (2)? Identify any such examples. [5 marks]
- f) Define a discontinuous dependency. Give an example from sentence (1) and state why it is an example. [5 marks]
- g) Define CP. Give two (2) examples of CP from sentence (1) and state why they are examples. [5 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

Section C: Semantics and Information Structure

Question 6

Define five (5) of the following terms. For each of the five, give two (2) examples from two (2) languages of your choice.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| a) old information | [5 marks] |
| b) truth conditions | [5 marks] |
| c) topic | [5 marks] |
| d) entailment | [5 marks] |
| e) reference | [5 marks] |
| f) connotation | [5 marks] |
| g) definiteness | [5 marks] |

[Total: 25 marks]

Question 7

Define five (5) of the following terms. For each of the five, give two (2) examples from two (2) languages of your choice.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| a) new information | [5 marks] |
| b) paraphrase | [5 marks] |
| c) comment | [5 marks] |
| d) contradiction | [5 marks] |
| e) denotation | [5 marks] |
| f) referentiality | [5 marks] |
| g) indefiniteness | [5 marks] |

[Total: 25 marks]

End of Question Paper