

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER - MAY 2011
B.A DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER : LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN
LANGUAGE 1

COURSE NUMBER: AL211 /IDE-AL211

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER THREE (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL
2. ANSWER AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION
3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISM SHOULD BE USED WHEREVER 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: THE NOUN

Answer at Least one Question from this Section

QUESTION 1

In siSwati vowel sequence is not allowed in the formation of words.

- a) What do we mean by the term vowel sequence? (5 marks)
- b) With the aid of examples discuss four different mechanisms that siSwati employs in order to avoid vowel sequence in the formation of words. (20 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

- a) With the aid of examples form siSwati define the noun;
 - i) morphologically,
 - ii) semantically and
 - iii) syntactically (9 marks)
- b) What do we mean by the term 'noun prefix'? Give appropriate examples to support your answer. (4 marks)
- c) With the aid of examples explain three different linguistic functions of the noun prefix. (12 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

- a) Give a concise table of Doke's noun classification. (10 marks)
- b) Explain how this classification is better than that of Meinhof (5 marks)
- c) With the aid of examples explain two problems that Doke's classification created (5 marks)
- d) With the aid of examples explain why class 1 singular nouns should be kept separate from those of class 2 singular even though they have identical prefixes. (5 marks)

[25 MARKS]

- c) Explain why synchronic linguists reject these definitions (5 marks)
- d) Using examples from your language give a table of the formation of the three morpheme system of the absolute pronoun and explain how you have formed it. (10 marks)

QUESTION 7

- a) Give a siSwati term given by traditional grammarians for the quantitative pronoun (5 marks)
- b) What term does Sihlatiya (1996) give for this kind of pronoun and explain why it opts for a different term. (5 marks)
- c) Discuss fully the stems of this pronoun. (3 marks)
- d) Using the stem **-nkhe** give a concise table of the quantitative pronoun and explain how you have formed it. (12 marks)

[25 MARKS]

SECTION C: THE QUALIFICATIVE AND THE VERB

Answer at Least one Question from this Section

QUESTION 8

- a) Using traditional Grammar define an adjective and give appropriate examples. (5 marks)
- b) Give six descriptive adjectival stems. (3 marks)
- c) Give six adjectival numeral stems. (3 marks)
- d) Explain the difference between the **-nye** which is an adjectival stem and the **-nye** which is an enumerative stem. (2 marks)
- e) Using Givon's classification give a table of adjectival concord and then explain how you have formed it. (12 marks)

[25 MARKS]

- c) Explain why synchronic linguists reject these definitions. (5 marks)
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