

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2011

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS

COURSE NUMBER: AL 301/IDE-AL301

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
- 2. CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A.**
- 3. CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B.**

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

SECTION A: WESTERN

Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 1

Describe the contribution of any **FIVE (5)** of the following to the development of Western Linguistics.

1. Dionysius Thrax
2. Varro
3. Panini
4. Dante Alighieri
5. William Holder
6. Thomas of Erfurt
7. Sir William Jones
8. Karl Verner
9. Ferdinand de Saussure
10. Morris Halle

[25 marks]

Question 2

Describe the role of religion, language learning, philosophy and orthography in the development of Western linguistics. State explicitly what the contribution of each was.

[25 marks]

Question 3

What is Grimm's Law? What insight did Grimm's Law provide in the development of historical linguistics?

[25 marks]

Question 5

Describe four (4) cultures that have contributed to the development of Western linguistics. State explicitly what the contribution of each culture was.

[25 marks]

SECTION B: BANTU

Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 5

Discuss briefly the contributions made to Bantu linguistic studies by the following:

- a) James Bryant
- b) C. Meinhof
- c) John Colenso
- d) Eugene Casalis
- e) W. H. Bleek

[25 marks]

Question 6

Discuss the contributions made to Bantu linguistics by Heinrich Lichtenstein.

[25 marks]

Question 7

Discuss:

- a) Five ways in which the phonological characteristics of the Nguni groups of languages are different from those of the Sotho group.
- b) Five ways in which the grammatical characteristics of the two groups of languages are different

[25 marks]

Question 8

- a) Brusciotto (1659) made reference to 'articles', 'principiations', 'case system', and 'declensions' in his description of KiKongo. Briefly discuss his motivation for the use of these terms and state the place of each of the terms in modern Bantu linguistic analysis. [12 marks]
- b) Briefly discuss four weaknesses of the 16th century Portuguese recorders of Bantu terms. [4 marks]
- c) Briefly discuss two reasons why Greenberg rejected the typological classification of languages. [4 marks]
- d) The term 'Bantu' can be used ethnologically or linguistically. Briefly discuss. [3 marks]
- e) Name any four daughter languages of Bantoid according to Greenberg's classification of African languages. [2 marks]

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER