UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2011

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. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.

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

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) Estimate according to glottochronology the period of time the following languages may have separated from each other.

            Language F from language I
            Language C from language G   (9 marks)
            Language I from language J

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

(b)   Briefly explain what constitutes the basic or core vocabulary of a language.
                                                                                  (5 marks)

                                                                          [25 marks]

INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION

Choose <u>one</u> question from this section

Question 2

a) Consider the data on different verb forms (labelled Form A and Form B) in Samoan and do the tasks that follow.

Form A	Gloss	Form B
ʔole	'cheat'	ʔolegia
faʔaee	'put'	faʔaeetia
fua	'weigh'	fuatia
faʔafoi	'send back'	faʔafoisia
gau	'break'	gausia
faitau	'read'	faitaulia
sila	'see'	silafia
utu	'fetch water'	utufia
sio	'surround'	siomia
inu	'drink'	inumia

Use the method of internal reconstruction to do the following tasks:

(i) Reconstruct the original form of the Form B affix. (1 mark)
(ii) Reconstruct the original forms for all the verbs. (5 marks)
(iii) Given that the Form B word for 'close' is /punitia/, can you predict the Form A counterpart? Why? (2 marks)
(iv) From which forms can the base forms be determined? (2 marks)

b) Examine the following Huli numerals which are given in their basic forms used in counting and do the tasks which follow:

Counting	Ordinal	
tebo	tebone	'three'
ma	mane	'four'
dau	dauni	'five'
waraga	waragane	'six'
hali	halini	'eight'
di	dini	'nine'
hombe	hombene	'eleven'

2

i) Reconstruct the original ordinal suffix. (1 mark)
ii) Identify the words whose suffixes have undergone changes and then give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms to show why they have changed. (6 marks)
iii) Identify the words that have retained their forms of suffixes and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. (8 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 3

a) Examine the data below from Huli (spoken in Papua New Guinea) and do the tasks which follow:

A.	ebero	'I am coming'
	ebere	'you are coming'
	ibira	's(h)e is coming'
	ibiru	'I came'
	ibiri	'you came'
	ibija	's(h)e came'
B.	biraro	'I am sitting'
	birare	'you are sitting'
	birara	's(h)e is sitting'
	biraru	'I sat'
	birari	'you sat'
	biraja	's(h)e sat'
C.	wero	'I am putting'
	were	'you are putting'
	wira	's(h)e is putting'
	wiru	'I put'
	wija	's(h)e put'
	widaba	'put everyone!'
D.	homaro	'I am dying'
	homare	'you are dying'
	homara	's(h)e is dying'
	homaru	'I died'
	homari	'you died'
	homaja	's(h)e died'

i) Reconstruct the original pronominal suffixes. (6 marks)

ii) Reconstruct the original roots for the verbs; come, sit, put, and die. (4 marks)

iii) Identify the words whose roots have undergone changes in (A) and then give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms to show why they have changed. (6 marks)

3

iv)   In the same category (A), identify the words that have retained their forms of roots and give good reasons why they have retained such forms.

(6 marks)

c) When might you want to use the method of Internal Reconstruction instead of the Comparative Method?   (3 marks)

[25 marks]

SECTION C

LANGUAGE CHANGE

Choose one question from this section

Question 4

a)   Consider the data below from five Romance languages:

Spanish	Sardinian	French	Portuguese	Rumanian	
riβa	ripa	riv	riba	ripə	'embankment'
amiɣa	amika	ami	amiga	--	'female friend'
kopa	kuppa	kup	kopa	kupə	'cup'
gota	gutta	gut	gota	gutə	'drop'

Now answer the following questions:

a)   Identify and write down the sound correspondences for each of the four items provided in the data.   (5 marks)

b)   For each set of sound correspondences you identified in (a), reconstruct the proto-sound.   (5 marks)

c)   According to O'Grady et al (1996), the Proto-Romance word for 'embankment' is /*ripa/. State the phonological processes which took place during the evolution of the words in the following languages from Proto-Romance. If more than one process occurred, name them all in their order of occurrence:

i)   Spanish;
ii)   French   (8 marks)
iii)   Portuguese; and

4

iv)   Rumanian

d)   List the remaining three Proto-Romance words on the basis of your reconstruction of the Proto-Romance sounds in (b) above.   (3 marks)

e)   Giving reasons, state which of the five languages do you consider to be

   i)   the most innovative?
   ii)   the most conservative?   (4 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 5

(a) Study the Lamba data given below and answer the questions that follow:

Underlying representation	Surface representation	
1. iN-βeβa	imbeβa	"mouse"
iN-βaŋgo	imaŋgo	"bonds"
2. iN-loβo	indoβo	"hook"
iN-lembo	inembo	"tattoos"

i)   Account for the difference in the stem-initial segment in [imbeβa] and /iN-βeβa/ in (1) and between [indoβo] and / iN-loβo / in (2) above.

(4 marks)

ii)   Account for the stem-initial segment in [imbeβa] and / imaŋgo / in (1) and between [indoβo] and /inembo/ in (2) above.   (6 marks)

iii)   Name the historical rule responsible for the variations you accounted for in (i) and (ii) above.   (2 marks)

b) With the aid of one example each from any Bantu language, briefly explain the following terms:

   i)   sub-class
   ii)   verbaliser
   iii)   stabiliser   (8 marks)
   iv)   derivative radical

c) The difference between partial reduplication and complete reduplication is rather unclear and relative. Explain.   (5 marks)

[25 marks]

5

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

*Choose **one** question from this section*

Question 6

With the aid of examples from relevant Bantu languages, discuss the operation of each of the following Laws:

a)   Dahl's Law
b)   Meinhof's Law
c)   Kwanyama Law

[25 marks]

Question 7

The Family Tree Model and the Wave Theory Model are both used in representing relationship between languages. Discuss these two models, providing evidence for each one of them. Which model do you think is more plausible and why?

[25 marks]