

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: DECEMBER 2011

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS

COURSE NUMBER: AL 311/IDE-AL311

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

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. The Stoics
3. Roger Bacon
4. The First Grammarian
5. Plato
6. Thomas of Erfurt
7. Sumer
8. Dante Alighieri
9. The Roman Empire
10. Petrus Ramus

[25 marks]

Question 2

Who were Priscian and Varro? Compare and contrast these two in terms of their innovativeness and influence on subsequent linguistic study in Western Europe.

[25 marks]

Question 3

What is etymology? Why did the ancient Greeks and Romans study etymology in Greek and Latin? Why do 21st century linguists no longer take it seriously as a subject?

[25 marks]

Question 4

What are Aristotle's four (4) causes? Show how Thomas of Erfurt applied the four causes to the definition of an acceptable sentence.

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 5

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

1. William Holder
2. Panini
3. Lindley Murray
4. Ferdinand de Saussure
5. August Schleicher
6. Port Royal Grammarians
7. Zellig Harris
8. Henry Sweet
9. Karl Brugmann
10. Rasmus Christian Rask

[25 marks]

Question 6

What was the Prague School? Name two (2) linguists who were members of the Prague School. How do Prague School theories of the phoneme and distinctive features reflect the influence of structuralism?

[25 marks]

Question 7

Who is Noam Chomsky? Who was Roger Bacon? Describe the connection between Chomsky's theories of innateness and the language acquisition device and Bacon's concept of universal grammar.

[25 marks]

Question 8

Describe isolating, agglutinative and flexional morphology. Give one example of each from any language or languages. Which two (2) scholars developed this morphological typology? How is it a contribution to the study of language typology?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER