

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2012

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. Ancient Greece
2. Priscian
3. Speculative Universalism
4. India
5. The Renaissance
6. Varro
7. *Institutiones grammaticae*
8. Language learning
9. *Techne grammatike*
10. Orthography

[25 marks]

Question 2

Describe the basic principles of Structuralism? How did it contribute to the development of Western linguistics?

[25 marks]

Question 3

What is cuneiform writing? What basic form does it use? How is this form produced by the tool used to write it and the type of surface on which it is written?

[25 marks]

Question 4

Describe the Rebus Principle. Give two (2) examples of the Rebus Principle from two different languages. How did the Rebus Principle contribute to the development of syllabic and alphabetic writing?

[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 von Humboldt
2. Berthold Delbrück
3. August Schlegel
4. Leonard Bloomfield
5. Prince Nicolai Trubetskoy
6. The Neogrammarians
7. Noam Chomsky
8. *De vulgari eloquentia*
9. Roman Jakobson
10. *Syntactic structures*

[25 marks]

Question 6

Who was Sir William Jones? Describe his contribution to western linguistics.

[25 marks]

Question 7

Describe Grimm's Law and explain its significance for the development of western linguistics.

[25 marks]

Question 8

Describe Joseph Greenberg's contribution to the study of language typology in terms of subject, verb, and object.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER