

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER - MAY 2012**  
**B.A DEGREE**

**TITLE OF PAPER :** LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN LANGUAGE 11I

**COURSE NUMBER:** AL400/IDE-AL400

**TIME ALLOWED:** THREE (3) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL
2. ANSWER AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION
3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS 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 VERB AND THE COPULATIVE

*Answer at least One Question from this Section*

#### QUESTION 1

Consider the following sentences and then answer the questions that follow;

- i) Umfati wemuke umntfwana umukhwa.
- ii) Thishela ubalele bantfwana sibalo.
- iii) Zwane ukhahlelise umfana ibhola.

- a) In what way are the three sentences above similar (2 marks)
- b) In what way are they different from each other (2 marks)
- c) Give paraphrases of sentences (ii) and (iii) (4 marks)
- d) Critically discuss Hyman and Duranti (1982) parameters that suggest that only one of the post verbal NPs in either (ii) and (iii) is a true object of the basic verb. (17 marks)

**[25 MARKS]**

#### QUESTION 2

- a) With the aid of examples from your language explain the three meanings associated with the benefactive extension in siSwati. (9 marks)
- b) Critically evaluate Kunene's analysis of the benefactive construction. (16 marks)

**[25 MARKS]**

#### QUESTION 3

- a) Write a sentence in each case that has the following characteristics
  - i) a copulative formed from a noun of class 3 (Meinhof) (2 marks)
  - ii) a copulative formed from the absolute pronoun of the first person plural (2 marks)
  - iii) a copulative formed from a class 15 demonstrative pronoun (hearer proximal) (2 marks)
  - iv) a copulative formed from the first person singular of the primitive demonstrative copulative – speaker proximal (2 marks)
- b) With the aid of examples, explain how the identificative type of copulatives is formed (17marks)

**[25 MARKS]**

#### **QUESTION 4**

Consider the following sentences;

- a) ngingaba ngumfundisi
- b) sengingaba ngumfundisi
- c) ngisengaba ngumfundisi

For each of the sentences above;

- i) state the grammatical category of these sentences (2 marks)
  - ii) give an English translation of each sentence (3 marks)
  - iv) state the mood of the sentences (1 mark)
  - v) state the tense of the sentences (1 mark)
  - vi) state the implication used in each sentence (3 marks)
  - vii) Explain the difference in meaning between the three sentences (3 marks)
  - viii) Explain how each sentence is formed (3 marks)
  - ix) Form the negative for each of the sentences (3 marks)
  - x) Explain the structure of each negative formation you have given in (ix) above (6 marks)
- [25 MARKS]**

#### **QUESTION 5**

Using your main language, classify the verb radical on the basis of the feature syllable and explain the linguistic significance of such a classification.

**[25 MARKS]**

### **SECTION B**

#### **THE ADVERB, THE IDEOPHONE THE CONJUNCTIVE AND THE INTERJECTIVE**

*Answer at least One Question from this Section*

#### **QUESTION 6**

- a) The Locative inversion can be derived by using different formatives. With the aid of examples discuss any three of these formatives showing how they differ from each other in terms of structure and use. (6 marks)
  - b) Explain fully how the locative is derived from the following:
    - i) Proper nouns of class 1a (5 marks)
    - ii) quantitative pronoun (4 marks)
    - iii) the relative derived from verbs using the subject concord as well as the formative -ba (6 marks)
    - iv) nouns from class 3 to 15 (4 marks)
- [25 MARKS]**

### **QUESTION 7**

Using two (2) examples in each case, discuss five (5) characteristics of onomatopoeic ideophones (tifutamsindvo and tifutasento ) in siSwati. Make sure that in each case the first example indicates an ideophone that imitates sound while the second example indicates an ideophone that imitates action)

[25 MARKS]

### **QUESTION 8**

- a) What is meant by the term 'primitive conjunctive'? (5 marks)
- b) Give three primitive conjunctives (3 marks)
- c) Use each of the conjunctives you have given in (b) above in three different sentences. In the first sentence the conjunctive should be at the beginning of a sentence, in the second sentence the conjunctive should be in the middle of the sentence, and in the third sentence the conjunctive should be at the end of the sentence. (3 marks)
- d) Now explain which two different ideas the conjunctive connects in each of the sentences you have constructed in (c) above. (6 marks)
- e) Using appropriate examples show how the conjunctive can be inflected to form copulatives (8 marks)

[25 MARKS]

### **QUESTION 9**

- a) What is an interjective? Give appropriate illustrations (5 marks)
- b) Discuss fully the derivation of the interjective from the following:
  - i) nouns denoting surnames
  - ii) nouns denoting names of people
  - iii) nouns denoting animals and other inanimate objects
  - iv) absolute pronoun
  - v) demonstrative pronoun (20 marks)

[25 MARKS]

## SECTION C

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Answer at least ONE Question from this Section**

#### **QUESTION 10**

Critically discuss the behaviorist approach to language acquisition.

**[25 MARKS]**

#### **QUESTION 11**

- a) What do we mean by syntactically based grammar? (5 marks)
- b) What do we mean by semantically based grammar (5 marks)
- c) With reference to Filmore, discuss case grammar, focusing mainly on how this grammar represents the deep and surface structures. (15 marks)

**[25 MARKS]**

#### **QUESTION 12**

Choose any five of the following and discuss them in terms of siSwati syntax. (Your discussion should involve defining the concept and explaining how it affects siSwati grammar)

- i) Case Frame Preservation Theory
- ii) Theta Theory
- iii) Predication Theory
- iv) Theta Criterion
- v) Uniformity Theta Assigning Hypothesis
- vi) Projection Principle
- vii) Trace Theory
- viii) Theta Grid
- ix) Subcategorization Frame
- x) Stray Affix filter

**[25 MARKS]**

#### **QUESTION 13**

Compare and contrast the Yes/No inversion with the TAG question in siSwati, focusing mainly on their structure and linguistic function.

**[25 MARKS]**