

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 2013**

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE I

COURSE NUMBER: AL110/IDE-AL110

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION AND THE FOURTH QUESTION FROM EITHER SECTION A OR SECTION B OR SECTION C.**
 - 3. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING, AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.**
 - 4. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**

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

**SECTION A
PHONETICS**

Choose one question from this section

Question 1

- a) Provide a three term label description of each of the sounds represented by the following IPA symbols:

[tʰ] [j] [ŋ] [dz] [d] [ʋ] [R] [q] (16 marks)

Example: [f]	Glottal activity	Manner	Place
	Voiceless	fricative	labiodental

- b) Transcribe phonetically the siSwati items which follow:

- | | | | |
|-------|---------|------------|-----------|
| i) | jova | 'inject' | |
| ii) | bala | 'count' | |
| iii) | tsenga | 'buy' | |
| iv) | phisa | 'brew' | |
| v) | luhleko | 'laughter' | (9 marks) |
| vi) | ngena | 'enter' | |
| viii) | inyama | 'meat' | |
| ix) | yosa | 'grill' | |
| x) | imfene | 'baboon' | |

[25 Marks]

Question 2

- (a) Distinguish between the following linguistic terms and concepts. Give for each argument an example from any language:

- | | | |
|------|--|------------|
| i) | aspirated and unaspirated | |
| ii) | voiced and voiceless | (15 marks) |
| iii) | Pulmonic and glottalic airstream mechanism | |

- (b) Using the phonetic alphabet, transcribe the following English words as you pronounce them in casual speech:

- | | | |
|------|-----------|------------|
| i) | children | |
| ii) | accept | |
| iii) | coughs | |
| iv) | through | (10 marks) |
| v) | phonetics | |

[25 Marks]

SECTION B
PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY
Choose one question from this section

Question 3

(a) What distinctive feature, if any, do the following sets of sound segments share?

- i) vowels and semi vowels;
- ii) consonants and vowels;
- iii) stops and affricates; (5 marks)
- iv) bilabials and rounded vowels;
- v) liquids and semi vowels

b) Using phonetic cover terms formalize the rules expressed in ordinary English words:

- i) A glide is inserted between vowels.
- ii) A consonant is deleted when it occurs before another consonant.
- iii) Voiceless stops are aspirated in word-initial position. (4 marks)

c) Using distinctive features, formalize the following rules:

- i) A vowel is nasalized when it occurs before a nasal consonant
- ii) A voiceless consonant becomes voiced between vowels
- iii) Voiced stops are phonetically realized as voiceless segments in word-final position.
- iv) A labial consonant is inserted between the vowel /o/ and /u/. (12 marks)

e) Using examples from any language, distinguish between a minimal pair and a near minimal pair. (4 marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 4

(a) From the Swahili sentences below, work out the lexical and grammatical forms which correspond to the English elements in the English translation.

waliondoka	“they left”	
niliwapika	“I cooked them”	
nitaondoka	“I will leave”	
utawauza	“You will sell them”	(10)
tutapita	“We will pass by”	

(b) Consider the following data from Sierra Popoluca (spoken in Mexico):

ka:ma	'cornfield'	ko:ya	'rabbit'
aŋkama	'my cornfield'	aŋko:ya	'my rabbit'
ika:ma	'his cornfield'	iko:ya	'his rabbit'
iŋkama	'your cornfield'	iŋko:ya	'your rabbit'
way	'hair'	ka:pay	'sister-in-law'
aŋway	'my hair'	aŋka:pay	'my sister-in-law'
iway	'his hair'	ika:pay	'his sister-in-law'
iŋway	'your hair'	iŋka:pay	'your sister-in-law'

i) Give the Sierra Popoluca morpheme which corresponds to the following English translation:

1. "my"
2. "his" (3 marks)
3. "your"

ii) What type of affixes are the Sierra Popoluca morphemes in (i) above? (1 mark)

iii) List all the other morphemes occurring in (b) above (Give the Sierra Popoluca morpheme and the English gloss). (8 marks)

iv) Formulate a general statement about how to form the possessive form of nouns in Sierra Popoluca. (3 marks)

[25 Marks]

SECTION C
MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS
Choose one question from this section

Question 5

a) Using distinctive features, formalize the following phonological rules:

- i) A voiced bilabial stop becomes a voiced bilabial fricative between vowels. (4 marks)
- ii) The vowel /i/ is deleted before the vowel /e/. (3 marks)
- iii) A vowel becomes nasalized before a nasal consonant. (3 marks)

b) Consider the following data from Ganda, a language spoken in Uganda, and do the tasks which follow:

kola	'do'
wawaabira	'accuse'
lwana	'fight'
buulira	'tell'
lya	'eat'
omugole	'bride'
effirimbi	'whistle'
olulimi	'tongue'
wulira	'hear'
omuliro	'fire'
eddwaliro	'hospital'
jjukira	'remember'

- (i) Are the liquids [l] and [r] allophones of the same phoneme in Ganda or do they belong to separate phonemes? (1 mark)
- (ii) If you believe they belong to separate phonemes, give evidence from the data. If you believe they are allophones of the same phoneme, list the conditioning environments. (5 marks)
- b) With the aid of examples from any language, define each of the following linguistic terms and concepts.
- (i) allomorph;
- (ii) accidental gaps; (9 marks)
- (iii) allophones in free variation

[25 Marks]

Question 6

- a) Discuss five ways in which a language can enlarge its vocabulary. (15 marks)
- b) Consider the data from Swahili provided below and do the tasks which follow:

beba	'carry on the back'
damu	'blood'
mbovu	'rotten'
giza	'darkness'
ngapi	'how many'
habari	'news'
ndege	'bird'
funga	'fasten'
mbaja	'bad'
wadogo	'little ones'
ndizi	'banana'

- (iii) List all the pairs of allophones found in the data. (3marks)
- (iv) State the distribution of the allophones you listed in (i) above. (3 marks)
- (v) Provide a phonemic transcription for the first **four** items presented in the data. (4marks)

[25 marks]

Question 7

- a) Indicate the phonetic symbol that is represented by each of the feature matrices presented below:

-cons
+son
-back
+high
-round

-cons
-son
-cont
-voiced
+dorsal
-del rel

+cons
+cont
-strid
+cor
+ant
+voiced

+cons
+nasal
+cor
+ant

(8 marks)

- b) Consider the data below from Tagalog:

sulat	'write'
sinulat	'was written'
susulat	'will write'
basag	'break'
binasag	'was broken'
bumabasag	'is breaking'
babasag	'will break'

Describe the process involved in the formation of the following:

- i) past tense;
- ii) present tense progressive; and (7 marks)
- iii) future tense.

- d) Assign a morphological tree structure to each of the following words:

- i) deactivated
- ii) personalize (10 marks)
- iii) disadvantaged

[25 marks]