

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: DECEMBER 2012**

**B.A. DEGREE**

**TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS**

**COURSE NUMBER: AL 311**

**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. Aristotle
2. Evangelism
3. Contemporary Europe and the United States
4. Phoenician alphabet
5. Priscian
6. Sumerian paradigm
7. Monogenesis
8. The Eight Parts of Speech
9. *De Lingua Latina*
10. *grammata*

[25 marks]

### **Question 2**

Describe four (4) separate types of writing systems. Give one (1) example of each of the four (4) systems. Specify how each type differs from the others.

[25 marks]

### **Question 3**

Name two (2) Indian grammarians and describe their contributions to Western linguistics.

[25 marks]

### **Question 4**

Who was the First Grammarian? What language did he describe? What was the Prague School? How did the First Grammarian's description of his language anticipate Prague School theories of phonology?

[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. Prince Nikolai Trubetskoy
2. Leonard Bloomfield
3. Structuralism
4. Joseph Greenberg
5. Sanskrit
6. Sir William Jones
7. Grimm's Law
8. Rasmus Rask
9. Zellig Harris
10. Wilhelm von Humboldt

[25 marks]

### **Question 6**

Describe Noam Chomsky's theories of innateness, Universal Grammar and the Language Acquisition Device.

[25 marks]

### **Question 7**

Define etymology as it was practiced by the ancient Greeks. Define the Comparative Method. Name one (1) difference between the two. Which one is favored by contemporary linguists, and why?

[25 marks]

### **Question 8**

Name two (2) Neogrammarian scholars. What was the Neogrammarian hypothesis? What other field of inquiry were the Neogrammarians emulating when they formulated this hypothesis? Do contemporary linguists agree with this hypothesis?

[25 marks]

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**