

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION  
JULY 2013**

**TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL AND  
COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS: WESTERN**

**COURSE NUMBER: AL412/IDE-AL412**

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

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
  - 2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.**
  - 3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER 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**  
**LANGUAGE CHANGE**  
*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 1**

a) Semantics does contribute to language change. With illustrations from any language, discuss the following terms in relation to language change:

- i) semantic broadening
- ii) semantic narrowing (15 marks)
- iii) semantic shift

b) Distinguish between Historical and History of linguistics. Support your argument with examples. (6 marks)

c) Name the case that was used to mark (or indicate) each of the following NP's in Old English:

- i) indirect object NP;
- ii) direct object NP; (4 marks)
- iii) subject NP; and
- iv) possessive NP

**[25 Marks]**

**Question 2**

a) Distinguish between the following types of sound change. Give for each argument an example from any language:

- i) apocope and syncope;
- ii) haplology and metathesis;
- iii) aphaeresis and prothesis; (20 marks)
- iv) phonetic unpacking and vowel breaking;
- v) assimilation and dissimilation.

b) By making use of examples, discuss compensatory lengthening. (5 marks)

**[25 Marks]**

**SECTION B**  
**COMPARATIVE RECONSTRUCTION**  
*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 3**

Consider the correspondence sets from five Polynesian languages:

	<b>Tongan</b>	<b>Samoan</b>	<b>Tahitian</b>	<b>Maori</b>	<b>Hawaiian</b>
1.	m	m	m	m	m
2.	n	n	n	n	n
3.	ŋ	ŋ	?	ŋ	n
4.	p	p	p	p	p
5.	t	t	t	t	k
6.	k	?	?	k	?

In addition, note that Tongan has kept the phoneme \*h in certain words, which has been lost in all other Polynesian languages. Furthermore, Tongan has lost the phoneme \*r from its inventory, which was kept as /r/ or became // in the other four languages:

Tongan	Samoan	Tahitian	Maori	Hawaiian	Proto-Polynesian
7. h	∅	∅	∅	∅	*h
8. ∅	l	r	r	l	*r

- (a) On the basis of this information and the following data, identify the 5 remaining consonant correspondences: (5 marks)

<b>Tongan</b>	<b>Samoan</b>	<b>Tahitian</b>	<b>Maori</b>	<b>Hawaiian</b>	
leʔo	leo	reo	reo	leo	'voice'
ʔuha	ua	ua	ua	ua	'rain'
lili	lili	riri	riri	lili	'angry'
hae	sae	hae	hae	hae	'to tear'
hihi	isi	ihi	ihi	ihi	'strip'
huu	ulu	uru	uru	ulu	'to enter'
fue	fue	hue	hue	hue	'vine'
afo	afo	aho	aho	aho	'fishline'
vela	vela	vera	wera	wela	'hot'
hiva	iva	iva	iwa	iwa	'nine'

	<b>Tongan</b>	<b>Samoan</b>	<b>Tahitian</b>	<b>Maori</b>	<b>Hawaiian</b>
9.	l	-	-	-	-
10.	ʔ	-	-	-	-
11.	h	-	-	-	-

12. f - - - -  
 13. v - - - -

b) For each of the correspondence sets in (1) – (6) and (9) – (13), reconstruct a proto-sound. (5 marks)

c) Complete the following comparative table by filling in the missing words: (10 marks)

Tongan	Samoaan	Tahitian	Maori	Hawaiian	
kaukau	—	—	kaukau	—	'to bathe'
—	mata	—	—	—	'eye'
—	tafe	—	—	kahe	'to flow'
laʔe	—	—	rae	—	'forehead'
—	—	—	—	waʔa	'canoe'
lano	—	—	raŋo	—	'fly'

d) Based on the data above, reconstruct the following words: 'voice', 'angry', 'vine', 'strip', 'to tear'. (5 marks)

[25 Marks]

#### Question 4

a) Study the data provided below from four languages of the Tupi-Guarani family. Then do the tasks which follow:

GUARANI	TUPINAMBA	SIRIONO	GUARAYO	
kitʃi	kiti	kisi	kitʃi	'cut'
tʃi	tiŋ	sī	tʃi	'white'
meʔe	meʔeŋ	meē	meē	'give'
kwa	pwar	kwa	kwa	'tie'
ki	kib	ki	ki	'louse'
kiʔa	kiʔa	kia	kia	'dirty'

i) Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the six items provided in the data. (6 marks)

ii) Wherever a proto-word has changed, name the daughter language and state the phonological process which took place during the development of the daughter language from Proto-Tupi-Guarani. (6 marks)

iii) Giving reasons for your opinion, which of the three languages do you consider to be:

1. the most conservative;
2. the most innovative.

(3 marks)

b) Study the data provided below from six Bantu languages. Then do the tasks which follow:

Language	Singular	Plural	
Gisu	ligi	gamagi	'egg(s)'
Kongo	diki	meki	'egg(s)'
Rimi	ige	mage	'egg(s)'
S. Sotho	lihi	mahi	'egg(s)'
Zambian Tonga	iji	maji	'egg(s)'
Tswana	lii	mai	'egg(s)'

According to Guthrie (1970), the Proto-Bantu stem for 'egg' is /-gi/. With the use of distinctive features, formalize the diachronic phonological rules which applied to the proto-Bantu stem to evolve the following:

- i) the Kongo stem;
- ii) the Rimi stem; and
- iii) the Tswana stem.

(10 marks)

**[25 Marks]**

**SECTION C**  
**INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION**  
*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 5**

a) Consider the data on different verb forms (labelled Form A and Form B) in Samoan and do the tasks that follow.

Form A	Gloss	Form B
alofa	'love'	alofagia
?ole	'cheat'	?olegia
fa?aece	'put'	fa?aeetia
fua	'weigh'	fuatia
fa?afoi	'send back'	fa?afoisia
gau	'break'	gausia
faitau	'read'	faitaulia

silā	'see'	silafia
utu	'fetch water'	utufia
sio	'surround'	siomia
inu	'drink'	inumia
lilo	'hide'	liloia
sopo	'exceed'	sopoa

Use the method of internal reconstruction to do the following tasks:

- (i) Reconstruct the original form of the Form B affix. (1 mark)
  - (ii) Reconstruct the original forms of the first 6 the verbs. (3 marks)
  - (iii) Given that the Form B word for 'close' is /punitia/, can you predict the Form A counterpart? Why? (3 marks)
  - (iv) From which forms can the base forms be determined? (2 marks)
- b) Examine the data below from Huli (spoken in Papua New Guinea) and do the tasks which follow:

A.	ebero	'I am coming'
	ebere	'you are coming'
	ibira	's(h)e is coming'
	ibiru	'I came'
	ibiri	'you came'
	ibija	's(h)e came'
B.	biraro	'I am sitting'
	birare	'you are sitting'
	birara	's(h)e is sitting'
	biraru	'I sat'
	birari	'you sat'
	biraja	's(h)e sat'
C.	wero	'I am putting'
	were	'you are putting'
	wira	's(h)e is putting'
	wiru	'I put'
	wija	's(h)e put'
	widaba	'put everyone!'
D.	homaro	'I am dying'
	homare	'you are dying'
	homara	's(h)e is dying'
	homaru	'I died'
	homari	'you died'
	homaja	's(h)e died'

- i) Reconstruct the original roots for the verbs; come, sit, put, and die. (4 marks)

- ii) Identify the words whose roots have undergone changes in (A) and then give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms to show why they have changed.  
(6 marks)
- iii) In the same category (A), identify the words that have retained their forms of roots and give good reasons why they have retained such forms.  
(6 marks)

[25 Marks]

**Question 6**

- a) Examine the data below from Bislama (spoken in Vanuati) and do the tasks which follow:

Root		Transitive verb	
rit	'read'	ritim	'read'
bon	'burnt'	bonem	'burn
smok	'smoke'	smokem	'smoke'
skras	'itch'	skrasem	'scratch'
slak	'loose'	slakem	'loosen'
stil	'steal'	stilim	'steal'
rus	'barbecue'	rusum	'barbecue'
tait	'tight'	taitem	'tighten'
boil	'boil'	boilem	'boil'
ciki	'cheeky'	cikim	'give cheek to'
pe	'payment'	pem	'pay for'
rere	'ready'	rerem	'prepare'
drai	'dry'	draim	'dry'
draun	'sink'	draunem	'push under water'
melek	'milk'	melekem	'squeeze liquid out of'
level	'level'	levelem	'level out'

- i) State what you think the original form of the transitive suffix might have been.  
(1 mark)
- ii) Identify the words whose suffixes have undergone changes and then give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms to show why they have changed.  
(9 marks)
- iii) Identify the words that have retained their forms of suffixes and give good reasons why they have retained such forms.  
(12 marks)
- b) When might you want to use the method of Internal Reconstruction instead of the Comparative Method?  
(3 marks)

[25 Marks]

**SECTION D**  
**MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS**  
*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 7**

“There is no precise figure for the number of languages spoken in the world today”. Provide evidence to support the authenticity of this statement along with relevant examples.

**[25 Marks]**

**Question 8**

- a) Child language acquisition may lead to language change. Discuss (5 marks)
- b) With illustrations from any language, discuss the following linguistic terms and concepts:
- |                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| i) Implicational universals; | (3 marks) |
| ii) Agglutinating language;  | (3 marks) |
| iii) Phoneme space;          | (3 marks) |
| iv) Sporadic sound change;   | (3 marks) |
| v) Phonetic fusion           | (5 marks) |
| vi) Attested parent language | (3 marks) |

**[25 Marks]**