UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2013
B. A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER:	INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS: BANTU

COURSE NUMBER:	AL413/IDE AL413

TIME ALLOWED:	THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.

2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION

3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISM SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

4. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED

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

SECTION A
LEXICOSTATISTICS AND GLOTTOCHRONOLOGY

Answer Question 1

Question 1

Examine the shared cognate percentage figures for the following ten hypothetical languages:

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A
68   B
13   11   C
39   37   9    D
39   36   8    66   E
35   33   10   67   65   F
37   35   9    57   53   50   G
30   33   36   54   56   33   34   H
22   28   27   53   51   46   57   67   I
31   24   21   56   54   47   58   66   69   J
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With reference to the above data,

(i)   Find out which languages are most closely related to each other and group them accordingly.   (3 marks)

(ii)   Work out the shared cognate percentages between the different groups, to find the second level of linguistic relationship.   (8 marks)

(iii)   Show the relationship of these languages in a family tree diagram.
                                                                        (5 marks)

(iv)   Estimate according to glottochronology the period of time the following languages may have separated from each other:

        1. Language H from language I
        2. Language A from language G   (9 marks)
        3. Language C from language E

Note: Use the formula below to work out the time depth:

$$t = \frac{\log C}{2 \log r}$$

The value of **r** in this formula is set at 0.805

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Choose __one__ question from this section

Question 2

a) Consider the following data from four Bantu languages and do the tasks that follow.

SiSwati	IsiZulu	S.Sesotho	Bemba	
umfati	umfazi	mʊsadi	umukaʃi	'woman/wife'
umuti	umuzi	mʊtsɪ	umuʃi	'village/home'
emanti	amanzi	metsi	ameʃi	'water'
imbuti	imbuzi	podi	imbuʃi	'goat'
tinkʰuni	izinkuni	dibeso	inkuni	'firewood'

    i)   Which of the four languages whose data appear above do you consider to share cognates, if any? Justify your claim.   (3 marks)

    ii)   In the languages you consider to share cognate forms, identify and list the consonant correspondences found in the nominal stems. Do not include identical sets.   (3 marks)

    iii)   For each set of consonant correspondences you identified in (b(ii)) above, reconstruct the proto-consonant and state the strategy you used to arrive at the proto-consonant.   (3 marks)

    iv)   State the phonological processes which took place during the evolution of the following forms from the Proto-language:

        1.   The Bemba stem [umukaʃi] 'woman/wife'.
        2.   The IsiZulu stem [imbuzi] 'goat'
        3.   The siSwati stem [tinkʰuni] 'firewood'   (6 marks)

b) With the use of distinctive features, formalize the diachronic phonological rules you stated in (iv).   (10 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 3

Malcolm Guthrie proposed criteria to be used in the identification of languages as belonging to the Bantu family. Discuss and critically evaluate these criteria.

[25 marks]

SECTION C

Choose one question from this section

Question 4

With the aid of examples from relevant Bantu languages, discuss the operation of each of the following Laws:

a) Dahl's Law
b) Meinhof's Law
c) Kwanyama Law

[25 marks]

Question 5

a) Consider the data from Lamba, a Bantu language, and answer he questions which follow:

-cit-	'do'	-citil-	'do for'
-pat-	'scold'	-patil-	'scold for'
-kunt-	'shake'	-kuntil-	'shake for'
-cet-	'spy'	-cetel-	'spy for'
-sonk-	'pay tax'	-sonkel-	'pay tax for'
-lim-	'cultivate'	-limin-	'cultivate for'
-kan-	'deny'	-kanin-	'deny for'
-pum-	'beat'	-pumin-	'beat for'
-fweny-	'scratch'	-fwenyen-	'scratch for'
-pon-	'fall'	-ponen-	'fall for'

i) Name the verbal extension found in the data above.   (2 marks)
ii) List the allomorphs of this extension in Lamba, and describe the distribution of the allomorphs.   (8 marks)

b) Compare the Lamba data provided in (a) above with those given below:

-alul-	'change'	-alwil-	'change for'
-cofol-	'bend'	-cofwel-	'bend for'
-kamun-	'tear'	-kamwin-	'tear for'
-konon-	'break'	-konwen-	'break for'

Explain how the extension you mentioned in (a (i)) above operates in these items.
(5 marks)

c) With illustrations from Meinhof's Ur-Bantu and siSwati vowel systems, discuss the *7 > 5 vowel shift.   (10 marks)

[25 marks]

SECTION D

*Choose **one** question from this section*

Question 6

a) List the Proto-Bantu nominal prefixes 19-23 and for each class show how the Proto-Bantu prefix is reflected in any **one** modern day Bantu language.

(10 marks)

b) Wherever the Proto-Bantu prefix has changed in a modern Bantu language illustrated in (a) above, state the phonological process which occurred during the development of the modern Bantu language.   (5 marks)

c) With illustrations from any Bantu language, distinguish between the following linguistic concepts:

i)	open and close vowels;	(4 marks)
ii)	tone spread and tonal shift;	(6 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 7

Consider the data from two Bantu languages; Setswana and Thivenda and answer he questions which follow:

1. Setswana

rat-a	rat^w-a	rat-iw-a	'be loved'
bop-a	botʃ^w-a	bop-iw-a	'be moulded'
tɬʰab-a	tɬʰadʒ^w-a	tɬʰab-iw-a	'be stabbed'
bof-a	boʃ^w-a	bof-iw-a	'be bound'
rɛm-a	rɛŋ^w-a	rem-iw-a	'be chopped'
dʒ-a	dʒ-ɪw-a		'be eaten'
ts'amay-a	ts'amay^w-a	ts'amay-iw-a	'go (pass.)'

3. Tshivenda

vul-a	vul^w-a	vul-iw-a	'be opened'
ɸaṱ-a	ɸaṱ^w-a	ɸaṱ-iw-a	'be built'
ɸ-a		ɸ-iw-a	'be given'
k-a		k-iw-a	'be picked'

| tap'-a | tapʸ-a | tap'-iw-a | 'be flicked' |
| kʰopʰ-a | kʰopʰʸ-a | kʰopʰ-iw-a | 'be broken off' |

Discuss, with relevant examples, the formation of the passive in siSwati and then compare and contrast it with the formation of the passive in Setswana and Thivenda as exemplified in the above data.

[25 marks]

| tap'-a | tap^y-a | tap'-iw-a | 'be flicked' |
| k^{h}op^h-a | k^{h}op^{hy}-a | k^{h}op^h-iw-a | 'be broken off' |

Discuss, with relevant examples, the formation of the passive in siSwati and then compare and contrast it with the formation of the passive in Setswana and Thivenda as exemplified in the above data.

[25 marks]