

*AL110 (MAIN EXAM)*

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION  
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**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.**
  - 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) Write the IPA symbols representing the following phonetic descriptions, and illustrate each of the sounds with a word in a language that contains the sound:

- i) A voiceless interdental fricative;
- ii) A voiceless glottal fricative;
- iii) A voiced labiodental fricative;
- iv) A low front vowel;
- v) A voiceless bilabial fricative;
- vi) A voiced alveolar lateral fricative;
- vii) A voiceless alveopalatal ejective affricate;
- viii) A voiceless coarticulated labiovelar stop;
- ix) A voiced bilabial implosive;
- x) A voiced alveopalatal fricative; (20)
- xi) A voiced velar nasal;
- xii) A voiced lateral liquid;
- xiii) A voiced lateral fricative;
- xiv) A voiced palatal approximant;
- xv) A schwa;
- xvi) A voiced bilabial fricative;
- xvii) A voiceless glottal stop;
- xviii) A low central vowel;
- xix) A high back tense vowel;
- xx) A voiceless velar fricative;

(b) With the aid of illustrations from any language(s), briefly explain what you understand by any **two** of the following linguistic terms and concepts:

- i) Linguistic competence
- ii) Structural ambiguity (5)
- iii) Prescriptive grammar

**[25 Marks]**

**Question 2**

(a) Give the regular English orthography for the following words, which are given in a broad transcription:

- i) buk
- ii) onli

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- iii) smuðən (5)
- iv) θɪŋk
- v) dʒʌmpt

(b) Give a phonetic representation of the following pairs of English words:

- i) show – shoe
- ii) weary – worry
- iii) lose – loose (10)
- iv) spot – Scot
- v) latter – later

(c) i) The sound [ʃ] is associated with different orthographic representations (letters). Provide at least 5 different examples. In your examples, underline the part of the word that represents the [ʃ] sound. (5)

ii) The letter *a* can be pronounced in different ways. Provide a minimum of 5 different examples. For each word you find, indicate the sound that is represented by the letter *a*. (5)

**SECTION B  
PHONOLOGY**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 3**

(a) Name the single feature that distinguishes the following pairs of sounds:

- i) [i] : [ɪ]
- ii) [k] : [x]
- iii) [f] : [v]
- iv) [i] : [e]
- v) [f] : [h] (10)
- vi) [z] : [d]
- vii) [kʰ] : [k]
- viii) [e] : [o]
- ix) [n] : [ŋ]
- x) [r] : [l]

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

- i) A long vowel is realised as a short one when it occurs in word initial position.
- ii) A consonant is fronted when it occurs before the vowel /i/ or /e/. (5)

(c) Using distinctive features, formalize the following rules:

- (i) The vowel /i/ is deleted before the vowel /e/.

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- (ii) A voiceless consonant becomes voiced between vowels  
 (iii) A voiced bilabial fricative becomes a voiced bilabial stop when it occurs after a bilabial nasal. (10)

[25 marks]

## Question 4

- a) In Southern Kongo/Kikongo, a Bantu language spoken in Angola, the non-palatal segments [t, s, and z] are in complementary distribution with their palatal counterparts [tʃ, ʃ, ʒ], as shown in the following words:

[tobola]	“to bore a hole”
[tʃina]	“to cut”
[kesoka]	“to be cut”
[ŋkofi]	“lion”
[zeŋa]	“to cut”
[ʒima]	“to stretch”
[kasu]	“emaciation”
[tʃiba]	“banana”
[zevo]	“then”
[azimola]	“alms”
[kunezulu]	“to heaven”
[tanu]	“five”

- i) State the distribution of each pair of segments given below:

[t] – [tʃ]

[s] – [ʃ]

[z] – [ʒ]

(6)

- ii) Which phones should be used as the underlying phoneme for each pair? State the reasons for your choice. (8)

- b) The following words are all regular plural forms of English nouns:

cats  
 wishes  
 languages  
 pegs  
 taps  
 books  
 stitches  
 terms  
 pads

- (i) List the allomorphs of the plural morpheme in English. (3)
- (ii) Which allomorph makes the best underlying form? Why? (2)
- (iii) State in words the conditioning factors that account for the presence of the different allomorphs of the English plural morpheme. (6)

[25 marks]

**SECTION C  
MORPHOLOGY**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 5**

- (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’	iŋkō: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. “your”
- (3)

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- ii) What type of affixes are the Sierra Popoluca morphemes in (i) above? (1)
- iii) List all the other morphemes occurring in (b) above (Give the Sierra Popoluca morpheme and the English gloss). (8)
- iv) Formulate a general statement about how to form the possessive form of nouns in Sierra Popoluca. (3)

[25 marks]

## Question 6

- (a) Consider the following forms from IciBemba, a Bantu language spoken in Zambia, and then answer the questions that follow:

alalanda	“s/he speaks
ulalanda	“you (singular) speak”
tulalanda	“we speak”
mulalanda	“you (plural) speak”
balalanda	“they speak”
ndalanda	“I speak”
nkalanda	“I will speak”
tukalanda	“we will speak”

- i) What is the iciBemba morpheme for “I”? (2)
- ii) What is the present tense morpheme? (2)
- iii) Which are the allomorphs of the present tense morpheme? (2)
- iv) State the distribution of the allomorphs you identified in (3) above. (5)
- v) Given that [tatubwela] means “we do not come”, how would you say the following in IciBemba?

1. They do not come
2. I will come
3. You (plural) come (9)

- (b) Indicate the word formation process responsible for the creation of the following words:

- i. street light
- ii. Rob
- iii. housekeep
- iv. empty (Verb) (5)
- v. UK

[25 marks]

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

**Question 7**

- a) Provide a **full description** of each of the sounds represented by the following phonetic symbols. Your description should include the place and manner of articulation as well as glottal activity.

[β] [t] [u] [tʰ] (16)

- b) Consider the following data from an African language called Maninka:

bugo	'hit'	bugoli	'hitting'
dila	'repair'	dilali	'repairing'
don	'come in'	donni	'coming in'
dumu	'eat'	dumuni	'eating'
gwen	'chase'	gwenni	'chasing'

- i) What are the two forms for the morpheme '-ing' in Maninka? (2)  
 ii) Can you predict which phonetic form will occur? If so, state the rule. (3)  
 iii) What are the '-ing' forms for the following verbs:

1. da 'lie down'
  2. men 'hear'
  3. famu 'understand'
  4. sunogo 'sleep'
- (4)

[25 marks]

**Question 8**

- (a) Study the data from siSwati presented below:

d <sup>z</sup> ilit'a	'take down'
d <sup>v</sup> onsa	'pull'
d <sup>z</sup> iŋa	'be needy'
d <sup>v</sup> uma	'thunder'
d <sup>v</sup> uḃa	'refuse smth.'
lid <sup>v</sup> olo	'knee'
d <sup>v</sup> ula	'hit heavily'
d <sup>z</sup> aḃula	'tear'
d <sup>z</sup> elega	'offend'
d <sup>z</sup> ad <sup>z</sup> e	'sister'

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- i) On the basis of the data, are [b] and [m] separate phonemes or allophones of the same phoneme? If you think they are separate phonemes, provide evidence from the data. If you think they are allophones state their distribution.  
(6)
- ii) Based on the same data, are the phones [d<sup>z</sup>] and [d<sup>v</sup>] separate phonemes of siSwati or are they allophones of the same phoneme. If you think they are separate phonemes, give your reasons. If you think they are allophones state their distribution.  
(5)
- (b) i) The sounds [k] and [f] are associated with different orthographic representations (letters). For each sound, provide at least 4 different examples, from any language. In your examples, underline the part of the word that represents the [k] and the [f] sound.  
(8)
- ii) The combination of letters *gh* can be pronounced in different ways. Provide a minimum of 4 different examples, from any language. For each word you find, indicate the sound that is represented by the combination *gh*.  
(6)

[25Marks]