

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 2014

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) What distinctive feature, if any, do the following sets of sound segments share?
- i) vowels and semi vowels;
 - ii) stops and affricates; (4)
 - iii) bilabials and rounded vowels;
 - iv) liquids and semi vowels.
- b) In each of the following words, the bold sounds differ by one or more phonetic properties (features). State the differences and, in addition, state what properties they have in common.
- i) bath – bat**h**e;
 - ii) reduc**e** – reduction; and (6)
 - iii) impolite- indec**e**nt.
- c) For each set of three words, which one begins with a different speech sound? Consider only the first sound in each word.
- Example: every – each – else: *each* begins with a different sound.
- i) scale – state – shall;
 - iii) throne – thy – these; and (3)
 - iv) jelly – giving – gentlemen.
- d) Distinguish between the following linguistic terms and concepts. Support your argument with examples:
- i) oral and nasal speech sound;
 - ii) voiced and voiceless speech sound; (12)
 - iii) Egressive and ingressive speech sound; and
 - iv) Pulmonic and glottalic airstream mechanism.

[25 marks]

Question 2

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

[p] [w] [ŋ] [dz] [d] [ʔ] [R] [j] (16)

Example: [v]	Glottal activity Voiced	Manner fricative	Place 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)
- vi) ngena 'enter'
- viii) inyama 'meat'
- ix) yosa 'grill'
- x) imfene 'baboon'

[25 marks]

**SECTION B
PHONOLOGY**

Choose one question from this section

Question 3

a) Distinguish between each of the following linguistic terms and concepts. Support your argument with examples from English.

- (i) accidental gaps and systematic gaps; (5)
- (ii) allophones in free variation and allophones in complementary distribution. (5)

b) In each of the following pairs of words, the underlined sounds differ by one or more phonetic properties (features). State the differences and, in addition, state what properties they have in common.

- (i) thigh thy
- (ii) reduce reduction
- (iii) taps tabs (9)

AL110 (SUPPLEMENTARY EXAM)

- c) In each of the groups (i-iii) below there is one odd member, the rest belonging to a natural class. Identify the odd one out and say which feature is common to the remainder.

- i. [x, ʁ, ŋ, k, p]
- ii. [n, l, ʒ, d, ŋ] (6)
- iii. [v, n, m, ɔ, β]

[25 marks]

Question 4

- a) 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)

- b) Using distinctive features, formalize the following rules:

- i) A vowel or a glide becomes long at the end of a word.
- ii) A voiceless consonant becomes voiced between vowels
- iii) Voiced stops are phonetically realized as voiceless segments in word-final position.
- iv) A vowel or a glide becomes long before a voiced consonant.
- v) Using distinctive features, collapse the rules formalised in (i) and (iv). (16)

- c) Using examples from any language, distinguish between an accidental gap and a systematic gap. (5)

[25marks]

**SECTION C
MORPHOLOGY***Choose one question from this section***Question 5**

- a) Consider the following data from a language called Mawao:

manao	'he wishes'
matua	'he is old'

AL110 (SUPPLEMENTARY EXAM)

malosi	'he is strong'
punou	'he bends'
savali	'he travels'
laga	'he weaves'
mananao	'they wish'
malolosi	'they are strong'
atamamaki	'they are wise'
pepese	'they sing'

i) How would you say the following in Mawao?

1. He is wise
2. He sings
3. They bend
4. They are old (8)

ii) Formulate a general statement which explains how the third person plural form is formed from the third person singular. (3)

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

1. campus nurse
2. Liz
3. housekeep
4. empty (Verb) (5)
5. USA

c) Briefly explain what you understand by each of the following morphological terms. Support your explanation with one example from any language:

- i) morphophonemic rules (3)
- ii) productive morphological rules (3)
- iii) derivational morphemes (3)

[25marks]

Question 6

a) The following data is from Hungarian. The morphemes in a word are connected by a hyphen (thus, for example, 'haz-ban' is one word with two morphemes. Answer the questions below the data:

a haz	the house	a haz-ak	the houses
a haz-ban	in the house	a haz-ak-ban	in the houses
a haz-uk-ban	in their house	a haz-ik-ban	in their houses

- i) What is the morpheme for 'house'?
- ii) What is the morpheme for 'in'?
- iii) What is the morpheme for PLURAL? (4)
- iv) What is the morpheme for 'their'?
- b) Draw a morphological tree structure for each of the following words:
- i) bitter sweet;
- ii) unloosen (6)
- ii) exactly
- c) Divide the following words into their separate morphemes. Label each the morpheme as either lexical, derivational, or inflectional:
- i) instrumental
- ii) grandmother
- iii) psychology
- iv) uncouth
- v) unfriendly
- vi) basically (15)
- vii) assimilation
- viii) London
- ix) impossible
- x) enjoyed
- [25 marks]

SECTION D
MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS
Choose one question from this section

Question 7

- a) Distinguish between each of the following linguistic terms and concepts. Support your argument with examples from English.
- i) Linguistic competence and linguistic performance;
- ii) Structural ambiguity and lexical ambiguity; (12)
- iii) Prescriptive grammar and descriptive grammar.
- b) With examples from any language, discuss **three** disadvantages of using spelling; instead of phonetic symbols in representing speech sounds. (9)
- c) With the aid of examples, define the following word formation processes.

- i) blending
 ii) back-formation (4)

Question 8

- a) 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? (2)
 (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)

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

- i) UNICEF
 ii) motel
 iii) peddle
 iv) sandwich (6)
 v) headstrong

- c) Assign a morphological tree structure for each of the following words:

- i) psychology
 ii) derivational (12)
 iii) reading material
 iv) derivational
 v) uncouth

[25 marks]

