

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2014  
B. A. DEGREE

**TITLE OF PAPER:** INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

**COURSE NUMBER:** AL210/IDE AL210

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

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.
  2. CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A.
  3. CHOOSE ONE (1) QUESTION FROM SECTION B
  4. CHOOSE ONE (1) QUESTION FROM SECTION C
  5. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISM SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

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

**SECTION A**  
**PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY**

*Answer Question 1 and any other question from this section.*

**Question 1**

- a) Each of the languages below illustrates a different kind of pattern of word stress. Stress is indicated by either an acute accent mark or a grave accent over the vowel of the syllable that is stressed. Describe (in words) the stress pattern of each language.

In the examples stress is indicated as follows:

á = primary stress

à = secondary stress

**1. Latin**

(i)	vérita:s	‘truth’	
(ii)	hóminem	‘man (accusative case)’	
(iii)	dí:kere	‘to speak’	
(iv)	diksísti	‘you spoke’	
(v)	míttutur	‘he was sent’	(5)
(vi)	mittúntur	‘they were sent’	
(vii)	veritá:tem	‘truth (accusative case)’	
(viii)	amí:cus	‘friend’	

**2. Diyari**

(i)	kána	‘man’	
(ii)	nánda	‘to hit’	
(iii)	múḷa	‘nose’	
(iv)	wílapína	‘old woman’	(5 marks)
(v)	ḡándawálka	‘to close’	
(vi)	pínadu	‘old man’	
(vii)	púḷuru	‘mud’	
(viii)	mánkaṛa	‘girl’	
(ix)	káḡini	‘mother’s mother’	

**3. Mpakwiti**

- (i) thú?u
- (ii) pá:na
- (iii) kálipwa
- (iv) dré:gwati (5)
- (v) bwá?a
- (vi) ?únuwàna
- (vii) mágu?i:ni

ii) Give the stress pattern you would predict for the word below in each language: [pota:kantali:ze] (6)

- b) What is the difference between Trubetzkoy's privative opposition and Chomsky and Halle's binary feature system? (4)

**[25 marks]****Question 2**

- a) According to Trubetzkoy's theory of distinctive oppositions;

"The same phonetic segments distinguished by the same phonetic features can stand in a neutralizable opposition in one language and in a constant opposition in another". Provide evidence to support this statement along with relevant examples. (5 marks)

- b) Write the following words in phonetic notation and place the words in their syllables:

- i) inflectional
- ii) linguistics
- iii) psychology
- iv) search (20 marks)
- v) phonetics
- vi) buka 'look'
- vii) bhala 'write'
- viii) umlomo 'mouth'

**[25 marks]****Question 3**

- a) Using hypothetical examples, give a brief description of the following linguistic terms as used in stress and tone assignment:

- i) Tone melody;

- ii) Tone stability  
 iii) Trochaic foot (9 marks)

- b) The data below indicates that speakers of Bakwiri play a linguistic game to disguise their speech.

	Normal	Disguised	Gloss
1.	mòkò	kòmò	'plantain'
2.	lówá	wáló	'excrement'
3.	kwéí	líkwé	'death'
4.	kóndì	ndíkò	'rice'
5.	liyé	yèlí	'stone'
6.	lùùngá	ngaalú	'stomach'
7.	zééyá	yáázé	'burn'

- i) Formulate rules that determine how the game is played. (3 marks)  
 ii) Using an Autosegmental analysis show how your analysis works to transform [zééyá] into yáázé. (5 marks)

- c) Use distinctive features to formalize the following phonological rules:

- i) When two non-labial high vowels follow each other the non-labial glide is inserted between them. (4 marks)  
 ii) When two labial high vowels follow each other the labial glide is inserted between them. (4 marks)

[25 marks]

#### Question 4

- a) Briefly explain how information which could have been previously expressed through the use of case inflections could now be conveyed in Modern English. (3 marks)  
 b) Consider the following Modern English sentence:

'Tiffany and her husband's cousin took the child to the doctor.'

- i) Indicate the part of the above sentence which is:  
 1. the subject NP;  
 2. the genitive NP;  
 3. the direct object NP; and  
 4. the indirect object NP. (4 marks)

- ii) Name the case which was used in Old English to indicate each of the NP's listed in (i) (1-4) above. (4 marks)
- a) Assign a morphological tree structure to each of the following words: (8 marks)
- (i) reading material  
(ii) derivational  
(iii) morphological
- b) Explain each of the following linguistic terms. Support your explanation with one example from any language: (6 marks)
- (i) derivational morpheme  
(ii) apocope  
(iii) blending

[25 Marks]

**Syntax and Semantics**

Answer *one question* from Section B and *one question* from Section C. Read the instructions carefully before you start writing.

**Section B: Syntax****Question 5**

- i) Name one (1) type of movement rule in X-bar theory. [1 mark]
- ii) Give two (2) examples of this type of rule in English. [2 marks]
- iii) For the two (2) rules you gave in (ii), give examples of different sentences in English in which:
- a) the first rule applies, but not the second rule [2 marks]
- b) the second rule applies, but not the first [2 marks]

- iv) Draw a complete X-bar theoretic phrase structure tree for each of the example sentences you gave in (iii). [12 marks]
- v) In each of the trees you drew in (iv), indicate the source, direction and goal of movement. [6 marks]
- [Total: 25 marks]

**Question 6**

- i) Give one (1) example of a yes-no question in English. [1 mark]
- ii) Give one (1) example of a constituent question in English. [1 mark]
- iii) Give one (1) example of an embedded clause in English. [1 mark]
- iv) Draw a complete X-bar theoretic phrase structure tree for each of the examples you gave in (i), (ii) and (iii). [18 marks]
- v) In one (1) or more of the trees you drew in (iii), identify one (1) example of each of the following:
- a) complementizer phrase [1 mark]
  - b) inflectional phrase [1 mark]
  - d) specifier [1 mark]
  - e) complement [1 mark]

[Total: 25 marks]

**Section C: Semantics and Information Structure****Question 7**

- i) Give one (1) example of each of the following from English. Justify your choice of examples. Do not use examples from any textbook.
- a) old information that is also a topic [5 marks]
  - b) new information that is also a comment [5 marks]
  - c) old information that is also a comment [5 marks]

d) new information that is also a topic [5 marks]

ii) Define referentiality. Give an example of referentiality in a language of your choice. [5 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

**Question 8**

i) Define the following terms. Illustrate each definition with one (1) example from a language of your choice. Do not use examples from English.

- a) definiteness [5 marks]
- b) indefiniteness [5 marks]
- c) contrast [5 marks]
- d) referentiality [5 marks]

ii) Choose one (1) of the terms you defined in (i). For this term, give an example of a construction in English which encodes the category of information structure it refers to. Justify your choice of construction. [5 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

**End of Question Paper**