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UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 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 in 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.

1. Malayalam

kárati	'bear'	
kará:rə	'agreement'	
máranam	'death'	(4)
ká:ranam	'reason'	
páttanam	'town'	
pattá:lam	'army'	

2. Weri

kùlipú	'hair of arm'	(3)
ulùamít	'mist'	
èkunètepál	'times'	
ŋintíp	'bee'	

3. Araucanian

tipánto	'year'	
wulé	'tomorrow'	
elúmuyù	'give us'	(4)
elúaènew	'he will give me'	
kimúbalùwulèy	'he pretended not to know'	

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

i)   A degenerate foot
ii) Syllable weight   (14)

iii)   An iambic foot

iv)   An extrametrical foot

[25 marks]

Question 2

(a) Using illustrations, give a brief description of the following linguistic terms:

    i)   tone melody;   (4)

    ii)   contour tone;   (4)

    iii)   Obligatory Contour Principle; and   (4)

    iv)   tone stability   (4)

b)   The following examples illustrate vowel and tone contraction in Yoruba, a Kwa language mainly spoken in Nigeria and Benin:

1.   kó   èkǒ   →   kê̲kǒ   'learn a lesson'

2.   rí   òbē   →   rô̲bē   'see a knife'

3.   rí   apò   →   râ̲pò   'see a bag'

Using an Autosegmental analysis, account for the tone of the contracted vowel (underlined) on the connected speech form in examples 1 and 3.   (9)

[25 marks]

Question 3

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

    i)   example

    ii)   writing   (10)

    iii)   bathe

    iv)   bath

b)   The following data on Tamil language indicate that some words begin with glides while others do not:

Initial j-glide		Initial w-glide		No initial glide	
1. jeli	'rat'	6. woɖi	'break'	11. arivu	'knowledge'
2. ji:	'fly'	7. wo:laj	'palm tree'	12. aiṉtu	'five'
3. jilaj	'leaf'	8. wu:si	'needle'	13. a:saj	'desire'
4. jeŋge	'where'	9. wujir	'life'	14. a:ru	'river'

5. jiɖuppu   'waist'   10. woːram   'edge'   15. aːdi   'origin'

    i)   Using your knowledge of natural classes, make a general statement about the distribution of the glides.   (2)

    ii)   Assuming the glides are not present in the underlying representations, name the process that accounts for their presence in the surface forms.   (1)

    iii)   Using distinctive features, write a rule using alpha notation that formalizes this process.   (4)

b)   Consider the following words:

    1.   inconsiderate
    2.   phonological

    i)   Divide each of the words into its morphemes.   (2)
    ii)   For each bound morpheme, indicate whether it is derivational or inflectional.   (2)
    iii)   For each word, draw a tree diagram to show how it is derived.   (4)

[25 marks]

Question 4

a)   In Southern Kongo, a Bantu language spoken in Angola, the non-palatal segments [t, s, 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'
[tanu]	'five'	[tʃiba]	'banana'
[kesoka]	'to be cut'	[nkoʃi]	'lion'
[kasu]	'emaciation'	[nselele]	'termite'
[kunezulu]	'heaven'	[aʒimola]	'alms'
[nzwetu]	'our'	[lolonʒi]	'to wash house'
[zevo]	'then'	[zenga]	'to cut'
[ʒima]	'to stretch]		

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

      [t]   [tʃ]
      [s]   [ʃ]   (6 marks)
      [z]   [ʒ]

ii)   Which phones should be used as basic phoneme for each pair? State the reason for your choice.   (8 marks)

iii)   State, in words, one phonological rule that will derive all the phonetic segments from their phonemes. Do not state a separate rule for each phoneme, but a general rule for all three phonemes you listed in (b) above.   (4 marks)

iv)   Formalize the rule you stated in (c) above with the use of distinctive features.
                                                                    (7 marks)

[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

Consider the following sentence:

(a)   Who did the referee with the whistle say that the actor destroyed?

i) Draw a complete X-bar theoretic phrase structure tree for sentence (a).   [8 marks]

ii) Indicate the source, direction and goal of movement for three (3) examples of movement in the tree you drew for (i).   [9 marks]

iii) Show how four (4) of the phrases in the tree you drew for (i) are examples of the X-bar schema.   [8 marks]
                                        [

                                                          [Total: 25 marks]

Question 6

i) Define a discontinuous dependency.   [5 marks]

ii) Name three (3) constructions in English that involve discontinuous dependencies.
[9 marks]

iii) Give an English example of one of the constructions you gave in (ii).   [1 mark]

iv) Draw a complete X-bar theoretic phrase structure tree for the example you gave in (iii).
[6 marks]

v) Explain how the tree you drew in (iv) accounts for the properties of its discontinuous dependency.   [4 marks]

[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 definite   [5 marks]
     b) new information that is also indefinite   [5 marks]
     c) old information that is also indefinite   [5 marks]
     d) new information that is also definite   [5 marks]

ii) Define contrast. Give an example of contrast 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 or languages of your choice. Do not use examples from English.

    a) topic   [5 marks]
    b) comment   [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