

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION  
JULY 2014**

**TITLE OF PAPER:            HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS: WESTERN**

**COURSE NUMBER:        IDE AL311**

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

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

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED**

**SECTION A**

**Choose two questions from this section**

**Question 1**

- a) Discuss any two theories of the origin of language. (10)
- b) Briefly explain what the following Greek terms refer to:
  - i) barbaroi
  - ii) grammatike (5)
- c) Does a proto-language die out and then get replaced by its daughter languages? What, for example, is the nature of the relationship between Latin and Portuguese? (10)

**[25 marks]**

**Question 2**

According to Robins (1990:21) amongst the ancient Greek philosophers, "...questions about language were considered within the terms of two somewhat interrelated controversies".

Discuss each of these controversies and evaluate the position of the following in either or both of the controversies:

- a) Plato;
- b) Aristotle;
- c) The Stoics; and
- d) Varro

**[25 marks]**

**Question 3**

Compare and contrast Varro's and Priscian's contributions to linguistic science with special reference to their treatment of the following:

- i) grammatical categories and word classes
- ii) tense; and
- iii) phonetics

**[25 marks]**

**Question 4**

- a) "There is no precise figure for the number of languages spoken in the world today". Provide evidence to support this statement along with relevant examples. (8)
- b) Discuss, critically, the contribution made by the Stoics to Descriptive Linguistics. (9)

- c) Briefly discuss how the Roman scholars were influenced by the ancient Greek philosophers (8)

[25 marks]

### SECTION B

Choose two questions from this section

#### Question 5

- a) Ferdinand de Saussure made a distinction between a synchronic study of language and a diachronic one. Compare and contrast these two branches of the study of language. Support your argument with examples. (10)
- b) Briefly discuss paradigmatically related elements in English at each of the following levels of analysis:
- i) phonological level;
  - ii) lexical level; and (15)
  - iii) grammatical level

[25 Marks]

#### Question 6

Rasmus Rask, rather than Jacob Grimm, should have been crowned as "The father of comparative linguistics". Discuss [25 marks]

#### Question 7

Discuss briefly the contributions made by any **five** of the following scholars towards the development of Historical and Comparative linguistics:

- a) Gottfield Wilhem Von Leibniz;
- b) A. Dante
- c) Johann von Herder
- d) Sir William Jones
- e) Franz Bopp
- f) Friedrich Schlegel

[25 marks]

**Question 8**

- a) What aspects of linguistic investigation did Franz Boas advocate to prove that language and culture were inseparable? (3)
- b) In the study of language, Edward Sapir differed from the behaviourists. Explain (5)
- c) Briefly explain what the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis was all about. (3)
- d) Briefly discuss the major difference between Sapir's and Bloomfield's approaches to the study of language. (6)
- e) In Bloomfieldian linguistics, morphemes were considered to be composed of phonemes. With illustrations, explain why this form of relationship is difficult to account for.

(8)

**[25 Marks]**