

*AL412 (MAIN EXAM 2013)*

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION  
NOVEMBER 2013**

**TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE  
LINGUISTICS: WESTERN**

**COURSE NUMBER: AL412/IDE-AL412**

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

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
  - 2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.**
  - 3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.**
  - 4. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING, AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.**
  - 5. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**

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

**SECTION A**  
**LANGUAGE CHANGE**  
*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 1**

With illustrations from any language, discuss the following linguistic terms and concepts:

- i) Implicational universals; (3)
- ii) Agglutinating language; (3)
- iii) Daughter language; (3)
- iv) Phoneme space; (5)
- v) Partial regressive assimilation; (3)
- vi) Haplology; (3)
- vii) Conditioned sound change; (3)
- viii) Prothesis (2)

[25 Marks]

**Question 2**

a) Consider the data below from a Proto language and Lenakel and do the tasks which follow:

Proto Language	Lenakel
*namatana	nimrin

- i) Specify the changes between the Proto language and Lenakel. (4)
  - ii) Name the phonological processes, in their order, which took place in the derivation of the Lenakel forms, and briefly account for the order you suggest. (9)
- b) Distinguish between Historical and History of linguistics. Support your argument with examples. (6)
- c) Consider the following vowel systems from Classical Latin and Tonkawa and answer the question that follows:

Classical Latin	Tonkawa
i                      u	i                      o
e                      o	e                      a
a	

Both Classical Latin and Tonkawa have the vowels /o/, /e/, and /a/ in their vowel systems. Give a description of these vowels in each of the languages, and briefly account for the description.

(6)

[25 Marks]

**SECTION B**  
**COMPARATIVE RECONSTRUCTION**  
*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 3**

Consider the data below from three Middle-Indic languages and answer the questions which follow:

Magadhi Prakrit	Pali	Maharastri Prakrit	
1. abala	apara	avara	'other'
2. diba	dipa	diva	'lamp'
3. hasta	hatt <sup>h</sup> a	hatt <sup>h</sup> a	'hand'
4. loga	loka	loa	'world'
5. nala	rara	nara	'man'
6. nisp <sup>h</sup> ala	nipp <sup>h</sup> ala	nipp <sup>h</sup> ala	'fruitless'
7. pask <sup>h</sup> aladi	pakk <sup>h</sup> alati	pakk <sup>h</sup> alai	'he stumbles'
8. pida	pita	pia	'father'
9. puspa	pupp <sup>h</sup> a	pupp <sup>h</sup> a	'flower'

- a) Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the nine items provided in the data. (9)
- b) Wherever a proto-word has changed, name the daughter language and state the phonological process which took place during the development of the daughter language from proto-Middle Indic. (9)
- c) Of the three languages, which do you consider to be  
i) the most conservative;  
ii) the most innovative. (5)  
Give reasons for your opinion.
- d) Given that the Maharastri Prakrit word for 'dry' is [sukk<sup>h</sup>a], what would be its cognate form in-  
i) Pali;  
ii) Magadhi Prakrit? (2)

[25 marks]

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**Question 4**

Consider the data provided below taken from four Polynesian languages and answer the questions which follow:

MAORI	HAWAIIAN	SAMOAN	FIJIAN	
pou	pou	pou	bou	'post'
tapu	kapu	tapu	tapu	'forbidden'
tani	kani	tani	tani	'cry'
hono	hono	fono	vono	'sit'
marama	malama	malama	malama	'moon'

Now answer the following questions:

- Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the five items provided in the data. (5)
- Wherever a proto-word has changed, name the daughter language and state the phonological process which took place during the development of the daughter language from Proto-Polynesian. (5)
- Formalize any two of the phonological processes you mentioned in (b) above. (5)
- Giving reasons, state which of the four languages do you consider to be
  - the most innovative?
  - the most conservative? (4)
- Consider the following data in conjunction with those already provided above.

MAORI	HAWAIIAN	SAMOAN	FIJIAN	
kaho	?aho	?aso	kaso	'thatch'

Given the following hypothetical Maori items, what would their cognates be in Hawaiian, Samoan, and Fijian?

- humu
- mahu (6)

[25 Marks]

**SECTION C**  
**INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION**  
*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 5**

- a) Examine the data below from Bislama (spoken in Vanuati) and do the tasks which follow:

Root		Transitive verb	
rit	'read'	ritim	'read'
bon	'burnt'	bonem	'burn
smok	'smoke'	smokem	'smoke'
skras	'itch'	skrasem	'scratch'
slak	'loose'	slakem	'loosen'
stil	'steal'	stilim	'steal'
rus	'barbecue'	rusum	'barbecue'
tait	'tight'	taitem	'tighten'
boil	'boil'	boilem	'boil'
ciki	'cheeky'	cikim	'give cheek to'
pe	'payment'	pem	'pay for'
rere	'ready'	rerem	'prepare'
drai	'dry'	draim	'dry'
draun	'sink'	draunem	'push under water'
melek	'milk'	melekem	'squeeze liquid out of'
level	'level'	levelem	'level out'

- i) State what you think the original form of the transitive suffix might have been. (1)
- ii) Identify the words whose suffixes have undergone changes and then give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms to show why they have changed. (9)
- iii) Identify the words that have retained their forms of suffixes and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. (12)
- b) When might you want to use the method of Internal Reconstruction instead of the Comparative Method? (3)

**[25 Marks]**

**Question 6**

Examine the data below from Bahasa Indonesia in which the active and passive verb forms are presented and do the tasks which follow:

Active	Passive	
məmbuka	dibuka	'open'
məndapat	didapat	'get'
mənyelaskan	dijelaskan	'explain'
məngosok	digosok	'rub'
məmərlukan	dipərlukan	'need'
mənanam	ditanam	'plant'
mənararə	dikararə	'compose'
mənjurus	diurus	'arrange'
məneja	dieja	'spell'
məņambil	diambil	'take'
məņikat	diikat	'tie'
məņerikan	dinərikan	'give a fright'
məņhapuskan	dihapuskan	'wipe'

- (i) Use the internal method of reconstruction to suggest what the original active and passive prefixes might have been. (2)
- (ii) Identify those words whose prefixes in the active form have undergone changes and give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms, to show how they have changed. (14)
- (iii) Identify the words that have retained their original forms of the active prefix and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. (9)

[25 marks]

**SECTION D  
MISCELENEOUS**

*Answer question 7*

**Question 7**

- a) Study the data provided below from four languages of the Tupi-Guarani family. Then do the tasks which follow:

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GUARANI	TUPINAMBA	SIRIONO	GUARAYO	
kitʃi	kiti	kisi	kitʃi	'cut'
tʃi	tiŋ	sī	tʃi	'white'
meʔe	meʔeŋ	meə	meə	'give'
kwa	pwar	kwa	kwa	'tie'
ki	kib	ki	ki	'louse'
kiʔa	kiʔa	kia	kia	'dirty'

- i) Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the six items provided in the data. (3)
- ii) Wherever a proto-word has changed, name the daughter language and state the phonological process which took place during the development of the daughter language from Proto-Tupi-Guarani. (6)
- iii) Using distinctive formalize any **two** phonological processes that you mentioned in (ii) above (6)
- b) Consider the data provided below and answer the questions which follow:

Proto-Bantu	Rundi	Pokomo	Bemba	
*-biad-	-vyar-	-vya-	-fyaal-	'bear (child)'

- i) State **three** phonological processes which took place in the development of the Rundi item /-vya-/ from Proto-Bantu /\*-biad-/. (3)
- ii) State **three** phonological processes which took place in the development of the Pokomo item /-vyar-/ from Proto-Bantu /\*-biad-/. (3)
- iii) State **four** phonological processes which took place in the development of the Bemba item /-fyaal-/ from Proto-Bantu /\*-biad-/. (4)

[25 Marks]