

AL412 (SUPPLEMENTARY EXAM 2013/14)

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 2014**

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

a) Distinguish between the following types of sound change. Give for each argument an example from any language:

1. apocope and syncope;
2. haplology and metathesis;
3. aphaeresis and prothesis; (20)
4. phonetic unpacking and vowel breaking;
5. assimilation and dissimilation.

b) By making use of examples, discuss phonetic fusion (5)

[25 Marks]

Question 2

Historical and Comparative Linguistics has been defined as the study of language change (O'Grady and Dobrovolsky 1987:193). With illustrations from English and / or any other Indo-European language, discuss the NATURE and TRIGGERS of this language change.

[25 marks]

**SECTION B
COMPARATIVE RECONSTRUCTION**

Choose one question from this section

Question 3

Consider the data below from Spanish, Sardinian, and Rumanian, all of which are Romance languages, and answer the questions which follow:

SPANISH	SARDINIAN	RUMANIAN	
hilo	filu	fir	'thread'
vida	bita	vita	'life'
vino	binu	vin	'wine'
riva	riba	ripa	'bank'
rio	riu	riu	'river'
riso	rizu	ris	'laugh'

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- a) Identify and write down the sound correspondences for each of the six items provided in the data. (3)
- b) For each set of sound correspondences you identified in (a), reconstruct the proto-sound and name the strategy you have used in your reconstruction. (6)
- c) Wherever the proto-sound has changed in the daughter language, name the phonological process which took place. If more than one process occurred, name them all in their order of occurrence. (Name the daughter language where each change occurred). (6)
- d) List the six Proto-Romance words on the basis of your reconstruction of the Proto-Romance sounds in (b) above. (6)
- e) Given that [muta] is the Sardinian word for 'change', what would be its cognate form in
 - i) Spanish (4)
 - ii) Rumanian

[25 Marks]

Question 4

Spanish	Sardinian	French	Portuguese	Rumanian
riβa	ripa	riv	riba	ripə 'embankment'
amiya	amika	ami	amiga	-- 'female friend'
kopa	kuppa	kup	kopa	kupə 'cup'
gota	gutta	gut	gota	gutə 'drop'

Now answer the following questions:

- a) Identify and write down the sound correspondences for each of the four items provided in the data. (5)
- b) For each set of sound correspondences you identified in (a), reconstruct the proto-sound. (5)
- c) Wherever, you have reconstructed the same sound for different correspondence sets, justify your reason for doing so. (6)
- d) According to O'Grady et al (1996), the Proto-Romance word for 'embankment' is /*ripa/. State the phonological processes which took place during the evolution of

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the words in the following languages from Proto-Romance. If more than one process occurred, name them all in their order of occurrence:

- i) Spanish;
- ii) French (6)
- iii) Portuguese; and

- e) List the remaining three Proto-Romance words on the basis of your reconstruction of the Proto-Romance sounds in (b) above. (3)

[25 Marks]

SECTION C
INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION
Choose one question from this section

Question 5

- a) Examine the data below from Huli (spoken in Papua New Guinea) and do the tasks which follow:

A.	ebero	'I am coming'
	ebere	'you are coming'
	ibira	's(h)e is coming'
	ibiru	'I came'
	ibiri	'you came'
B.	ibija	's(h)e came'
	biraro	'I am sitting'
	birare	'you are sitting'
	birara	's(h)e is sitting'
	biraru	'I sat'
C.	birari	'you sat'
	biraja	's(h)e sat'
	wero	'I am putting'
	were	'you are putting'
	wira	's(h)e is putting'
D.	wiru	'I put'
	wija	's(h)e put'
	widaba	'put everyone!'
	homaro	'I am dying'
	homare	'you are dying'
	homara	's(h)e is dying'
homaru	'I died'	
homari	'you died'	
homaja	's(h)e died'	

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- i) Reconstruct the original pronominal suffixes. (6)
- ii) Reconstruct the original roots for the verbs; come, sit, put, and die. (4)
- iii) Identify the words whose roots have undergone changes in (A) and then give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms to show why they have changed. (6)
- iv) In the same category (A), identify the words that have retained their forms of roots and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. (6)
- b) When might you want to use the method of Internal Reconstruction instead of the Comparative Method? (3)

[25 Marks]

Question 6

- a) Consider the data on different verb forms (labelled Form A and Form B) in Samoan and do the tasks that follow.

Form A	Gloss	Form B
ʔole	'cheat'	ʔolegia
faʔaee	'put'	faʔaetia
fua	'weigh'	fuatia
faʔafoi	'send back'	faʔafoisia
gau	'break'	gausia
faitau	'read'	faitaulia
sila	'see'	silafia
utu	'fetch water'	utufia
sio	'surround'	siomia
inu	'drink'	inumia

Use the method of internal reconstruction to do the following tasks:

- (i) Reconstruct the original form of the Form B affix. (1 mark)
- (ii) Reconstruct the original forms for all the verbs. (5 marks)
- (iii) Given that the Form B word for 'close' is /punitia/, can you predict the Form A counterpart? Why? (2 marks)
- (iv) From which forms can the base forms be determined? (2 marks)
- b) Examine the following Huli numerals which are given in their basic forms used in counting and do the tasks which follow:

Counting	Ordinal	
tebo	tebone	'three'

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ma	mane	'four'
dau	dauni	'five'
waraga	waragane	'six'
hali	halini	'eight'
di	dini	'nine'
hombe	hombene	'eleven'

- i) Reconstruct the original ordinal suffix. (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. (6)
- iii) Identify the words that have retained their forms of suffixes and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. (8)

[25 Marks]

SECTION D
MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS
Choose one question from this section

Question 7

The Family Tree Model and the Wave Theory Model are both used in representing relationship between languages. Discuss these two models, providing evidence for each one of them. Which model do you think is more plausible and why?

[25 marks]

Question 8

- a) "There is no precise figure for the number of languages spoken in the world today". Provide evidence to support the authenticity of this statement along with relevant examples. (15)
- b) What do you think is the importance to historical linguistics of the fact that Sanskrit, Latin, and Greek were written languages? Would we have been able to make the same advances if they were not? (5)
- c) How does typology contribute to our understanding of language change? (5)

[25 Marks]