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

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS: BANTU

COURSE NUMBER: AL413/IDE AL413

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1.   ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL

2.   CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION A

3.   CHOOSE THREE QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B

4.   LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISM SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

5.   ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED

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SECTION A
LEXICOSTATISTICS AND GLOTTOCHRONOLOGY

Answer Question 1

Question 1

Examine the shared cognate percentage figures for the following 10 hypothetical languages:

A									
89	B								
88	87	C							
28	30	29	D						
26	34	30	86	E					
28	27	32	56	54	F				
27	29	31	57	53	62	G			
30	33	36	54	56	63	64	H		
22	28	27	53	51	66	65	87	I	
31	24	21	56	54	67	68	86	89	J

With reference to the above data,

(i)   Find out which languages are most closely related to each other and group them accordingly.   (3 marks)

(ii) Work out the shared cognate percentages between the different groups, to find the second level of linguistic relationship.   (8 marks)

(iii) Show the relationship of these languages in a family tree diagram. (5marks)

(iv) Estimate according to glottochronology the period of time the following languages may have separated from each other.

> Language A from language J
> Language D from language E   (9 marks)
> Language E from language I

Note: Use the formula below to work out the time depth:
>   t = log C

2 log r

The value of **r** in this formula is set at 0.805

SECTION B

Answer Question 2 and any other two questions from this section

Question 2

a) Consider the following data from four Bantu languages and do the tasks that follow.

SiSwati	IsiZulu	S.Sesotho	Bemba	
umfati	umfazi	mʊsadi	umukaʃi	'woman/wife'
umuti	umuzi	mʊtsɪ	umuʃi	'village/home'
emanti	amanzi	metsi	ameʃi	'water'
imbuti	imbuzi	podi	imbuʃi	'goat'
tinkʰuni	izinkuni	dibeso	inkuni	'firewood'

i) Which of the four languages whose data appear above do you consider to share cognates, if any? Justify your claim. (3 marks)

ii) In the languages you consider to share cognate forms, identify and list the consonant correspondences found in the nominal stems. Do not include identical sets. (3 marks)

iii) For each set of consonant correspondences you identified in (a (ii)) above, reconstruct the proto-consonant and state the strategy you used to arrive at the proto-consonant. (3 marks)

iv) State the phonological processes which took place during the evolution of the following forms from the Proto-language:

   1. The Bemba stem [umukaʃi] 'woman/wife'.
   2. The IsiZulu stem [imbuzi] 'goat'
   3. The siSwati stem [tinkʰuni] 'firewood' (6 marks)

b) With the use of distinctive features, formalize the diachronic phonological rules you stated in (iv). (10 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 3

a) Consider the noun stems in the data provided below from Ur-Bantu and from three Modern Bantu languages and do the tasks that follow: (The items have been divided into prefix and stem for you)

Ur-Bantu	Swahili	Kongo	Zulu	Bemba	
mu-yaka	mw-aka	mw-aka	um-ɲaka	umw-aka	'year'
mu-kila	m-kia	ŋ-kila	um-sila	umu-tʃila	'tail'
mu-kipa	m-sipa	-------	um-sipʰa	---------	'vein'

i) State **one** phonological process which took place in the development of Swahili, Kongo, and Bemba stems for the item 'year' from Ur-Bantu stem /-yaka/. (2 marks)

ii) State two phonological processes which took place in the development of the Zulu stem /- sipʰa/ from the Ur-Bantu stem /-kipa/. (2 marks)

iii) State one phonological process which took place in the development of the Bemba stem /- tʃila / from the Ur-Bantu stem /-kila/. (2 marks)

iv) State one phonological process which took place in the development of the Swahili stem /-kia/ from the Ur-Bantu stem /-kila/. (1 marks)

b) With the use of distinctive features, formalize the diachronic phonological rules you stated in (ii) and (iii). (10 marks)

c) With the aid of examples from relevant Bantu languages, discuss Dahl's Law (8 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 4

a) Study the Zulu data provided below, and do the tasks which follow:

-bon-	'see'	-bonw-	'be seen'
-thand-	'love'	-thandw-	'be loved'
-bong-	'praise'	-bongw-	'be praised'
-ph-	'give-	-phiw-	'be given'
-dl-	'eat'	-dliw-	'be eaten'
-mb-	'dig'	-mbiw-	'be dug'

i) Name the verbal extension found in the data above. (2 marks)
ii) List the allomorphs of this extension in Zulu, and describe the distribution of the allomorphs on the basis of these data above. (3 marks)

b) Compare the Zulu data provided in (c) above with those given below, and do the task which follows:

-tap-	'gather'	-tatshw-	'be gathered'

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-boph-	'tie'	-boshw-	'be tied'
-hluph-	'tease'	-hlushw-	'be teased'
-thum-	'send'	-thunyw-	'be sent'
-lob-	'write'	-lotshw-	'be written-

Account for the morphophonemic changes affecting the final consonant of the base radical in the data above   (5 marks)

c)   With illustrations from any Bantu language, discuss any *five* characteristics that are proposed by Guthrie for identifying languages as belonging to the Bantu family.   (15 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 5

a)   With illustrations from any relevant Bantu languages discuss the following linguistic terms and concepts:

   i)   Vowel harmony and Nasal harmony   (8 marks)
   ii)   Opaque segment   (5 marks)

b)   Does a proto-language die out and then get replaced by its daughter languages? What is, for example, the nature of the relationship between Nguni and isiXhosa?
                                             (8 marks)

c)   Discuss two types of adjectival prefixes. Give for each type, one example from any relevant Bantu language.   (4 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 6

a)   Swadesh (1955) discussed guidelines for the preparation of word lists used in lexicostatistics. Discuss **six** of the guidelines, giving *one* example under each point.   (19 marks)

b)   Lexicostatisticians classify and subgroup languages according to their shared cognate percentages in core vocabulary. List the **six** subgroups.   (6 marks)

[25 marks]