

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION  
DECEMBER 2014**

**TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE I**

**COURSE NUMBER: AL110/IDE-AL110**

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

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

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

**SECTION A  
PHONETICS**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 1**

a) Distinguish between each of the following linguistic terms and concepts. Support your argument with examples from English.

- i) Linguistic competence and linguistic performance; (3 marks)
- ii) Structural ambiguity and lexical ambiguity; (4 marks)
- iii) Prescriptive grammar and descriptive grammar. (3 marks)

b) With examples from any language, discuss **FIVE** disadvantages of using spelling; instead of phonetic symbols in representing speech sounds.

(15 marks)

**[25 MARKS]**

**Question 2**

Write the IPA symbols representing the following phonetic descriptions, and illustrate each of the sounds with a word in a language that contains the sound:

- i) A voiceless interdental fricative;
- ii) A voiceless glottal fricative;
- iii) A voiced labiodental fricative;
- iv) A low front vowel;
- v) A voiceless bilabial fricative;
- vi) A voiced alveolar lateral fricative;
- vii) A voiceless alveopalatal ejective affricate;
- viii) A voiced coarticulated labiovelar stop;
- ix) A voiced velar implosive;
- x) A voiced alveopalatal fricative; (25 marks)
- xi) A voiced velar nasal;
- xii) A voiced lateral liquid;
- xiii) A voiceless lateral fricative;
- xiv) A voiced palatal approximant;
- xv) A schwa;
- xvi) A voiced bilabial fricative;
- xvii) A voiceless glottal stop;
- xviii) A low central vowel;
- xix) A high back tense vowel;
- xx) A mid front lax vowel;
- xxi) An aspirated voiceless alveolar stop;
- xxii) A voiced alveolar affricate;

- xxiii) A voiced glottal fricative;
- xxiv) A voiceless dental click;
- xxv) A high front long vowel.

[25 MARKS]

**SECTION B  
PHONOLOGY**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 3**

- a) In Japanese the sounds [s] and [ʃ] are in complementary distribution.

kesa	'this morning'
aʃita	'tomorrow'
osoi	'slow, late'
ʃimasu	'(I will) do it'
kusaru	'to rot'
mujī	'insect'
ase	'sweat'
miso	'soy bean paste'
toji	'year'

- i) Account for this distribution. (4 marks)
  - ii) Which one these complementary sounds, ([s] or [ʃ]) is at the underlying level? Support your response. (5 marks)
- b) Use Cover Terms to formalize the following phonological rules:
- (i) A consonant is fronted before the vowel /e/;
  - (ii) The voiceless bilabial fricative is voiced between vowels.
  - (iii) The labiovelar glide is inserted between high back vowels. (8 marks)
  - (iv) The sequence /a/ /i/ becomes [e] when a morpheme boundary intervenes.
- c) Distinguish between each of the following linguistic terms and concepts. Give for each argument an example from any language.
- i) Minimal pair and near minimal pair; (8 marks)
  - ii) Accidental gaps and systematic gaps.

[25 MARKS]

**Question 4**

- a) Using distinctive features, formalize the following rules:
- i) The vowel /u/ is deleted before the vowel /a/.
  - ii) A voiceless consonant becomes voiced between vowels
  - iii) Voiced stops are phonetically realized as voiceless segments in word-final position.
  - iv) A voiceless bilabial stop is aspirated when it occurs word-initially (16 marks)
- b) Using phonetic cover terms formalize the following rules expressed in ordinary English words:
- i) A consonant is labialized when it precedes the vowel /o/. (4 marks)
  - ii) A voiceless bilabial stop is aspirated when it occurs word-initially.
- c) Study the data from siSwati presented below:

d <sup>z</sup> ilit'a	'take down'
d <sup>v</sup> onsa	'pull'
d <sup>z</sup> iŋa	'be needy'
d <sup>v</sup> uma	'thunder'
d <sup>v</sup> uŋa	'refuse smth.'
lid <sup>v</sup> olo	'knee'
d <sup>v</sup> ula	'hit heavily'
d <sup>z</sup> aŋula	'tear'
d <sup>z</sup> eŋela	'offend'
d <sup>z</sup> ad <sup>z</sup> e	'sister'

On the basis of data, are [ŋ] and [m] separate phonemes or are they allophones of the same phoneme? If you think they are separate phonemes, provide evidence from the data. If you think they are allophones state their distribution. (5 marks)

[25 MARKS]

**SECTION C  
MORPHOLOGY**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 5**

- a) The following data provide the possible forms of the regular past tense morpheme in English.

walked  
dragged  
kissed

fined  
loaded  
pushed  
judged  
searched  
padded  
suited  
reported  
soaked  
reaped  
grabbed

- (i) List the allomorphs of the past tense morpheme in English. (3)
- (ii) Which allomorph makes the best underlying form? Why? (3)
- (iii) State in words the conditioning factors that account for the presence of the different allomorphs of the English past tense morpheme. (6)

b) Consider the following data from an African language called Maninka:

bugo	'hit'	bugoli	'hitting'
dila	'repair'	dilali	'repairing'
don	'come in'	donni	'coming in'
dumu	'eat'	dumuni	'eating'
gwen	'chase'	gwenni	'chasing'

- i) What are the two forms for the morpheme '-ing' in Maninka? (2 marks)
- ii) Can you predict which phonetic form will occur? If so, state the rule. (3 marks)
- iii) What are the '-ing' forms for the following verbs:

- 1. da 'lie down'
- 2. men 'hear' (8 marks)
- 3. famu 'understand'
- 4. sunogo 'sleep'

[25 MARKS]

### Question 6

- a) The following data is from Hungarian. The morphemes in a word are connected by a hyphen (thus, for example, 'haz-ban' is one word with two morphemes. Answer the questions below the data:

a haz	the house	a haz-ak	the houses
a haz-ban	in the house	a haz-ak-ban	in the houses
a haz-uk-ban	in their house	a haz-ik-ban	in their houses

- i) What is the morpheme for 'house'?
- ii) What is the morpheme for 'in'?
- iii) What is the morpheme for PLURAL? (4)
- iv) What is the morpheme for 'their'?

b) Indicate the word formation process responsible for the creation of the following words:

- i) UNICEF
- ii) peddle
- iii) sandwich (9)
- iv) headstrong
- v) campus nurse
- vi) Liz
- vii) Housekeep
- viii) empty (Verb)
- ix) USA

c) Assign a morphological tree structure for each of the following words:

- i) psychology
- ii) derivational (12)
- iii) reading material
- iv) derivational
- v) uncouth

[25 MARKS]

**SECTION D**  
**MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS**  
*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 7**

- (a) i) The sound [u] is associated with different orthographic representations (letters). Provide at least 5 different examples. In your examples, underline the part of the word that represents the [f] sound. (5 marks)

- ii) The combination of letters *gh* can be pronounced in a number of different ways. Provide a minimum of 4 different examples. For each word you find, indicate the sound that is represented by the combination *gh*.  
(4 marks)
- (b) Distinguish between the following linguistic terms and concepts. Support your argument with examples:
- i) oral and nasal speech sound;
  - ii) voiced and voiceless speech sound;
  - iii) pulmonic and glottalic airstream mechanism (12 marks)
- (c) In each of the following pairs of words, the underlined sounds differ by one or more phonetic properties (features). State the differences and, in addition, state what properties they have in common.
- (i) reduce                  reduction
  - (ii) impolite              indecent (4 marks)

[25 MARKS]

### Question 8

- a) Name the single feature that distinguishes the following pairs of sounds:
- i) [i] : [u]
  - ii) [m] : [g]
  - iii) [i] : [e] (5 marks)
  - iv) [r] : [l]
  - v) [z] : [d]
- b) With the aid of examples from relevant languages define the following word-formation processes:
- a. acronyms
  - b. back-formations
  - c. clippings (15 marks)
  - d. loan translations
  - e. extensions
- c) Discuss the concept of Voice Onset Time (VOT) as used in aspiration. (5 marks)

[25 MARKS]