

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION  
JULY 2015

**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) Give the phonetic symbols for the sounds represented orthographically by the emboldened letters in the words below:

<b>r</b> ough	<b>T</b> homas	<b>t</b> hink	<b>p</b> en	<b>f</b> act
S <b>te</b> phen	<b>s</b> heep	c <b>a</b> ge	<b>j</b> aw	<b>g</b> old (10 marks)
<b>ch</b> aos	<b>d</b> ough	b <b>u</b> sy	<b>c</b> asual	<b>c</b> ausal
<b>a</b> scension	<b>e</b> scape	<b>th</b> ere	<b>s</b> paghetti	<b>ch</b> ocolate

- b) Transcribe phonetically the siSwati items which follow:

i)	juba	'cut'	
ii)	bala	'count'	
iii)	tsengisa	'sell'	
iv)	phisa	'brew'	
v)	dlala	'play'	(15 marks)
vi)	ngena	'enter'	
vii)	inyosi	'bee'	
viii)	yosa	'grill'	
ix)	cindzetela	'press'	
x)	bhala	'write'	

[25 marks]

**Question 2**

- a) Provide a three term label description of each of the sounds represented by the following IPA symbols:

[g]	[m]	[dz]	[d]	[ʔ]	[X]	[j]	[ŋ]
[β]	[tʰ]	[ʈ]	[b]	[x]	[G]	[dʒ]	[ʔ]

Example: [f]	<b>Glottal activity</b>	<b>Manner</b>	<b>Place</b>
	Voiceless	fricative	labiodental

[25 marks]

**SECTION B  
PHONOLOGY**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 3**

- a) Consider the following data from Ganda, a language spoken in Uganda, and do the tasks which follow:

kola	'do'
wawaabira	'accuse'
lwana	'fight'
buulira	'tell'
lya	'eat'
omugole	'bride'
effirimbi	'whistle'
olulimi	'tongue'
wulira	'hear'
omuliro	'fire'
eddwaliro	'hospital'
jjukira	'remember'

- (i) Are the liquids [l] and [r] allophones of the same phoneme in Ganda or do they belong to separate phonemes? (2 marks)
- (ii) If you believe they belong to separate phonemes, give evidence from the data. If you believe they are allophones of the same phoneme, list the conditioning environments. (5 marks)
- b) Distinguish between each of the following linguistic terms and concepts. Support your argument with examples from English.
- (i) accidental gaps and systematic gaps;
- (ii) allophones in free variation and allophones in complementary distribution.
- (iii) A minimal pair and near minimal pair. (12 marks)
- c) Which distinctive feature is shared by the following pairs of sounds?
- (i) vowels and glides;
- (ii) vowels and voiced consonants;
- (iii) round vowels and labials; (6 marks)
- (iv) glides and consonants;
- (v) liquids and nasals;
- (vi) liquids and consonants.

**[25 marks]**

**Question 4**

In Southern Kongo, a Bantu language spoken in Angola, the non-palatal segments [t, s, z] are in complementary distribution with their palatal counterparts [tʃ, ʃ, ʒ] as shown in the following words:

[tobola]	'to bore a hole'	[tʃina]	'to cut'
[tanu]	'five'	[tʃiba]	'banana'
[kesoka]	'to be cut'	[nkofi]	'lion'
[kasu]	'emaciation'	[nselele]	'termite'
[kunezulu]	'heaven'	[aʒimola]	'alms'
[nzwetu]	'our'	[lolonʒi]	'to wash house'
[zevo]	'then'	[zenga]	'to cut'
[ʒima]	'to stretch'		

i) State the distribution of each pair of segments given below:

[t]	[tʃ]	
[s]	[ʃ]	(6 marks)
[z]	[ʒ]	

ii) Which phones should be used as basic phoneme for each pair? State the reason for your choice. (8 marks)

iii) State, in words, one phonological rule that will derive all the phonetic segments from their phonemes. Do not state a separate rule for each phoneme, but a general rule for all three phonemes you listed in (b) above. (4 marks)

iv) Provide a phonemic transcription of the **first seven** items presented in the data. (7 marks)

[25 Marks]

**SECTION C  
MORPHOLOGY**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 5**

Consider the following forms from Indonesia and Tagalog and then answer the questions that follow:

<b>Indonesian</b>			
rumah	'house'	rumahrumah	'houses'
ibu	'mother'	ibuibu	'mothers'
lalat	'fly'	lalatlalal	'flies'

**Tagalog**

bili	'buy'	bibili	'will buy'
kain	'eat'	kakain	'will eat'
pasok	'enter'	papasok	'will enter'

- i) State how Indonesian forms plural of nouns. (2 marks)
- ii) State how Tagalog forms the future tense of verbs. (2 marks)

(c) Consider the following data from a language called Mawao:

manao	'he wishes'
matua	'he is old'
malosi	'he is strong'
punou	'he bends'
savali	'he travels'
laga	'he weaves'
mananao	'they wish'
malolosi	'they are strong'
atamamaki	'they are wise'
pepese	'they sing'

i) How would you say the following in Mawao?

- 1. He is wise
- 2. He sings (8 marks)
- 3. They bend
- 4. They are old

ii) Formulate a general statement which describes how the third person plural form is formed from the third person singular. (3 marks)

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

- i) uncivilised
- ii) derivational (10 marks)
- iii) explained
- iv) organisational

[25 Marks]

**Question 6**

- a) Consider the following forms from IciBemba, a Bantu language spoken in Zambia and DR Congo, and then answer the questions that follow:

alalanda	“s/he speaks
ulalanda	“you (singular) speak”
tulalanda	“we speak”
mulalanda	“you (plural) speak”
balalanda	“they speak”
ndalanda	“I speak”
nkalanda	“I will speak”
tukalanda	“we will speak”

- i) What is the morpheme for “I”? (2 marks)  
 ii) What is the present tense morpheme? (2 marks)  
 iii) Which are the allomorphs of the present tense morpheme? (2 marks)  
 iv) State the distribution of the allomorphs you identified in (3) above. (4 marks)  
 v) Given that [tatubwela] means “we do not come”, how would you say the following in IciBemba?

- i) They do not come  
 ii) I will come (6 marks)

- b) Briefly explain what you understand by each of the following morphological terms. Support your explanation with one example from any language:

- i) morphophonemic rules (3 marks)  
 ii) productive morphological rules (3 marks)  
 iii) derivational morphemes (3 marks)

[25 Marks]

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

**Question 7**

- (a) Consider the following data from Sierra Popoluca (spoken in Mexico):

ka:ma	‘cornfield’	ko:ya	‘rabbit’
aŋkama	‘my cornfield’	aŋko:ya	‘my rabbit’
ika:ma	‘his cornfield’	iko:ya	‘his rabbit’

iŋkama	'your cornfield'	iŋko:ya	'your rabbit'
way	'hair'	ka:pay	'sister-in-law'
aŋway	'my hair'	aŋka:pay	'my sister-in-law'
iway	'his hair'	ika:pay	'his sister-in-law'
iŋway	'your hair'	iŋka:pay	'your sister-in-law'

i) Give the Sierra Popoluca morpheme which corresponds to the following English translation:

1. "my"
2. "his" (3 marks)
3. "your"

ii) What type of affixes are these? (2 mark)

iii) List all the other morphemes occurring in the data above (Give the Sierra Popoluca morpheme and the English gloss). (8 marks)

iv) Formulate a general statement about how to form the possessive form of nouns in Sierra Popoluca. (3 marks)

(b) The letter *a* can be pronounced in different ways. Provide a minimum of 5 different examples. For each word you find, indicate the sound that is represented by the letter *a*. (5 marks)

(c) In each of the following words, the bold sounds differ by one or more phonetic properties (features). State the differences and, in addition, state what properties they have in common.

- i) **bath** – bathe;
- ii) reduce – reduction; and (4)

[25 Marks]

### Question 8

(a) With the aid of examples from relevant languages define the following word-formation processes:

- i) back-formations
- ii) clippings (12 marks)
- iii) loan translations
- iv) extensions

(b) The following words are all regular plural forms of English nouns:

pots  
wishes  
languages  
pegs  
taps

books  
stitches  
terms  
pads

- (i) List the allomorphs of the plural morpheme in English. [3]
- (ii) Which allomorph makes the best underlying form? Why? [4]
- (iii) State in words the conditioning factors that account for the presence of the different allomorphs of the English plural morpheme. [6]

[25 Marks]