

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER - MAY 2015

B.A DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER : LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN LANGUAGE 11
COURSE NUMBER : AL310
TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL
2. ANSWER AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION
3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS
SHOULD BE USED WHEREVER 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

THE NOUN

Answer at Least One Question from this Section.

QUESTION 1

- a) With the aid of examples define the noun:
Morphologically,
Semantically and
Syntactically. (9 marks)
- b) The noun is divided into a prefix and a stem. With the aid of examples, discuss any three linguistic functions of the noun prefix. (9 marks)
- c) With the aid of examples, discuss fully the similarities and differences between Doke's and Givon's classifications of Bantu nouns. (7 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

- a) With the aid of examples, discuss any five meanings associated with the diminutive in siSwati (5 marks)
- b) Using traditional grammar explain the distribution of the diminutive suffixes **-ana** and **-wana**. (5 marks)
- c) Justify why contemporary linguists argue that there is only one diminutive suffix in siSwati. (15 marks)
- d) Fully discuss the palatalization that occur in the formation of diminutives in siSwati, and go further to explain that this kind of palatalization is not the normal palatalization process that occur in other languages. (10 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

- a) With the aid of examples, explain that the **-kati** associated with the augmentative should be treated differently from the **-kati** that marks feminine gender in siSwati. (5 marks)

b) With the aid of examples from siSwati, define primitive, derived and borrowed noun stems. (10 marks)

c) With the aid of examples, discuss the instrumental as well the non-instrumental objective nominal, and explain whether the formation of such nominal is productive or not. (10 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

a) There is a controversy surrounding the singular prefix of class 1a/2a in siSwati. With the aid of examples, bring forth four different arguments that can be presented in support of the latent vowel prefix argument. (15 marks)

b) Explain fully any three criticisms presented by contemporary linguists against those who argue for a latent vowel prefix. (10 Marks)

[25 MARKS]

SECTION B

THE PRONOUN AND THE QUALIFICATIVE

Answer at least One Question from this Section.

QUESTION 5

- a) Using traditional grammar, define a pronoun. (5 marks)
- b) Give a brief discussion of all the types of siSwati pronouns as presented by traditional grammarians (5 marks)
- c) Using appropriate examples, explain why Guma rejects the quantitative and the demonstrative pronouns. (10 marks)
- d) Sibanda and Mthembu (1997) on the other hand reject the qualificative pronoun. Explain their arguments. (5 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 6

- a) Using Doke (1937), define the absolute pronoun. Give appropriate examples.
(5 marks)
- b) With the aid of examples, discuss fully the formation of the absolute pronoun using a three morpheme system.
(20 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 7

- a) Using traditional grammar, define the adjective. Give appropriate examples (5 marks)
- b) The adjectival stems can be grouped into different categories. With the aid of examples group the adjectival stems into three different groups and justify your grouping
(10 marks)
- c) Give a table of adjectival concords in siSwati
(5 marks)
- d) Discuss fully how Dlamini (1979) explain the formation of this type of concords
(5 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 8

- a) With the aid of examples, discuss any five meanings associated with the possessive in siSwati.
(10 marks)
- b) Using appropriate examples explain how the possessive from the following grammatical categories:
- i) Relative stems formed from locatives
 - ii) Demonstrative pronouns
 - iii) Quantitative pronouns
 - iv) Possessive

(15 marks)

[25 MARKS]

25 MARKS]

SECTION C

LINGUISTIC PAPERS AND ARTICLES

Answer at least One Question from this Section.

QUESTION 9

Using Canonici (1989), explain fully the criteria used in classifying nouns in Bantu, pointing out why he considers the syntactic behavior to be the only reliable criterion.

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 10

With the aid of examples, discuss fully the four different arguments presented by Givon (1971) in support of the notion that class 1 /2 is a later creation.

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 11

Using Herbert article (1979) and any other argument you can get, justify the notion that in languages where the singular and plural forms of class 9/10 nouns are identical the nasal is a prefix.

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 12

- a) With the aid of examples, explain what is meant by compounding (5 marks)
- b) With reference to siSwati, explain the two important observations made by Kunene with regards to siSwati compounds (5 marks)
- c) Using Sibanda (1995), explain how compounds resemble both morphology and syntax.

[25 MARKS]