

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2015
B. A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS: BANTU

COURSE NUMBER: IDE-AL312

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:
1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.
 2. CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A.
 3. CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTION FROM SECTION B
 4. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISM SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

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

SECTION A

Answer Question 1 and any other question from this section

Question 1

Consider the following words which were recorded by the earliest recorders of Bantu and do the task that follows:

- i) Punt
- ii) Mlkngrw
- iii) Symbaot
- iv) Mozimo
- v) Encoces

Support the view by Doke and Cole that the above words are related to words that are found in modern day Bantu languages. Provide evidence to show such relationship and the nationalities that posited the words in their different contributions.

[25 marks]

Question 2

- a) There are four morphological systems found in human languages. These are:
- i) Isolating or analytic
 - ii) Agglutinating/Agglutinative
 - iii) Synthetic or Inflectional
 - iv) Polysynthetic

Using relevant examples, explain how the following languages may be placed in more than one of the above morphological systems.

- 1. The English language
- 2. Bantu languages (12 marks)

b) With examples from any language, explain the following linguistic terms and concepts:

- i) Geographical classification of languages; and (3 marks)
- ii) Reconstructed parent language. (4 marks)

c) Briefly discuss **3 reasons** why Greenberg rejected the typological classification of languages. (6 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 3

- a) The following scholars/recorders made significant contributions to Bantu linguistic studies. Give one major contribution by each one of them:

- i) Egyptian sources;
- ii) Father Andre Fernandez;
- iii) Father Pedro Dias, S.J.;
- iv) Giacinto Bruciotto; (20 marks)
- v) John Bennie;
- vi) James Bryant;
- vii) Father Cardoso;
- viii) Arabic sources;
- ix) James Archbell; and
- x) William Boyce

- b) Discuss the main weaknesses of the early recorders of Bantu words. (5 marks)

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Answer Question 4 and any other question from this section

Question 4

- a) Draw family tree diagrams to represent Richard Lepsius' classification of African languages. (10 marks)
- b) List ten of the characteristics which Lepsius followed in his classification of Bantu languages. (15 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 5

- a) What name is given to Zone 60 in Doke's classification of Bantu languages? (2 marks)
- b) Using examples from relevant languages, discuss five morphological characteristics of this zone (i.e. zone 60). (20 Marks)
- c) Andrew Sparrman (1772-1776) observed that 'Hottentots use clicks, and distinguished them from Bantu in that Bantu languages do not use clicks. Critically evaluate the above statement. (3 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 6

a) Briefly discuss and critically the contributions made by the following scholars towards the development of Bantu linguistic studies:

i) John Barrow (6 marks)

ii) John Theodore Vanderkemp (8 marks)

a) Evaluate William Boyce's contribution to the study of language as contained in the introduction to Archbell's Grammar of the Bechuana Language.

(6 marks)

b) Draw a family tree diagram to represent J. Torrend's classification of South African Bantu languages.

(5 marks)

[25 marks]