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

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

COURSE NUMBER: AL412/IDE-AL412

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

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

2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.

3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS SHOULD
BE USED WHENEVER 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
LANGUAGE CHANGE

*Choose **one** question from this section*

Question 1

a) Semantics does contribute to language change. With illustrations from any language, discuss the following terms in relation to language change:

      i)   semantic broadening
      ii)   semantic narrowing   (6 marks)
      iii)   semantic shift

b) Name the case that was used to mark (or indicate) each of the following NP's in Old English:

      i)   indirect object NP;
      ii)   direct object NP;   (4 marks)
      iii)   subject NP; and
      iv)   possessive NP

c) With the aid of illustrations from any relevant language(s), discuss each of the following linguistic concepts in relation to language change:

      i)   Syntactic borrowing;   (4 marks)
      ii)   Adstratum borrowing;   (3 marks)
      iii)   Folk Etymology;   (4 marks)
      iv)   Metaphores.   (4 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 2

With the aid of illustrations from any language(s), briefly explain what you understand by each of the following linguistic terms and concepts:

      i)   Phoneme space;   (3 marks)
      ii)   Isolating language;   (3 marks)
      iii)   Attested parent language;   (3 marks)
      iv)   Phonetic fusion;   (4 marks)
      v)   Regressive assimilation;   (3 marks)

(2 marks)
sound change; (3 marks)
and euphemism; (4 marks)
[25 Marks]

SECTION B
COMPARATIVE RECONSTRUCTION

*Choose **one** question from this section*

Question 3

Consider the data below from two American Indian languages and answer the following questions. ([ɨ] represents a high back unrounded vowel).

Yerington Paviotso (YP)	Northfork Monachi (NM)	
mupi	mupi	'nose'
tama	tawa	'tooth'
piwɨ	piwɨ	'heart'
sawaʔpono	sawaʔpono	'a feminine name'
nɨmɨ	nɨwɨ	'liver'
tamano	tawano	'springtime'
pahwa	pahwa	'aunt'
kuma	kuwa	'husband'
wowaʔa	wowaʔa	'Indians living in the west'
mɨhɨ	mɨhɨ	'porcupine'
noto	noto	'throat'
tapa	tape	'sun'
ʔatapɨ	ʔatapɨ	'jaw'
papiʔɨ	papiʔɨ	'older brother'
patɨ	petɨ	'daughter'
nana	nana	'man'
ʔatɨ	ʔetɨ	'bow/gun'

a) Identify each sound correspondence. (4 marks)

b) (i) For each correspondence you identified in (a) not containing an m or w, reconstruct a proto-sound. (6 marks)

(ii) On the basis of the position of m in YP, can you predict which sound it will correspond to in NM? If so, state the rule. (2 marks)

(d) (i) For the three correspondences you discovered in (a) involving m and w should you reconstruct two or three proto-sounds. Briefly explain why.

(4 marks)

(ii) List the reconstructed proto-sounds for m and w and indicate the changes (along with any conditioning factors) that they underwent in the daughter languages.

(4 marks)

(e) Based on the above, reconstruct the following words:

(i) 'tooth'
(ii) 'bow/gun'
(iii) 'sun'
(iv) 'husband'   (5 marks)
(v) 'throat'

[25 marks]

Question 4

Consider the data provided below taken from four Polynesian languages and answer the questions which follow:

MAORI	HAWAIIAN	SAMOAN	FIJIAN	
pou	pou	pou	bou	'post'
tapu	kapu	tapu	tapu	'forbidden'
tani	kani	tani	tani	'cry'
takere	taʔele	taʔele	takele	'keel'
hono	hono	fono	vono	'sit'
marama	malama	malama	malama	'moon'

Now answer the following questions:

a) Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the six items provided in the data.   (6 marks)

b) Wherever a proto-word has changed, name the daughter language and state the phonological process which took place during the development of the daughter language from Proto-Polynesian.   (6 marks)

c) With the use of distinctive features, formalize the diachronic rules which applied to the proto-forms to evolve the reflexes in Hawaiian.   (6 marks)

d) Giving reasons, state which of the four languages you consider to be

the most innovative

the most conservative   (4 marks)

e) ·   Consider the following data in conjunction with those already provided above.

MAORI	HAWAIIAN	SAMOAN	FIJIAN	
kaho	?aho	?aso	kaso	'thatch'

Given the following hypothetical Maori items, what would their cognates be in Hawaiiaṅ, Samoan, and Fijian?

i)   humu   (3 marks)

ii)   mahu

[25 Marks]

SECTION C
INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION

Choose one question from this section

Question 5

Examine the data below from Bahasa Indonesia and do the tasks which follow:

	Simple form	Prefixed form
'throw'	lempar	məlempar
'feel'	rasa	mərasa
'convince'	yakin	məyakin
'cook'	masak	məmasak
'marry'	nikah	mənikah
'chat'	ŋaco	məŋaco
'sing'	ɲaɲi	məɲaɲi
'draw a picture'	gambar	məŋgambar
'send'	kirim	məɲirim
'hear'	dəŋar	məndəŋar
'write'	tulis	mənulis
'help'	bantu	məmbantu

'hit'	pukul	məmukul
'sew'	dʒahit	məɲdʒahit
'note down'	tʃatat	məɲtʃatat
'take'	ambil	məŋambil
'fill up'	isi	məŋisi
'invite'	undaŋ	məŋundaŋ

(i) Use the internal method of reconstruction to suggest what the original form of the prefix might have been. (2 marks)

(ii) Identify those words whose prefixes have undergone changes and give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms, to show how they have changed.

(14 marks)

(iii) Identify the words that have retained their original forms of prefixes and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. (9 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 6

a) Consider the data provided below from Mbabaram, a language spoken in North Queensland Australia:

*wula	→	lo	'die'
*ŋali	→	li	'we'
*guju	→	ju	'fish'
*guwa	→	wo	'west'
*bamba	→	mba	'belly'
*wuna	→	no	'lie down'
*diba	→	be	'liver'
*gumbi	→	mbi	'penis'
*naga	→	ga	'east'
*ɲulu	→	lu	'he'

i) Some word-final /a/ became [e], some became [o], and some remained unchanged. What were the conditioning factors? (8 marks)

...bles were lost. Did this change take place before or after the changes affecting the ...ʔa/? Explain with relevant examples from the data.   (4 marks)

b) Consider the data on different verb forms (labelled Form A and Form B) in Samoan and do the tasks that follow.

Form A	Gloss	Form B
ʔole	'cheat'	ʔolegia
faʔaee	'put'	faʔaeetia
fua	'weigh'	fuatia
faʔafoi	'send back'	faʔafoisia
gau	'break'	gausia
faitau	'read'	faitaulia
sila	'see'	silafia
utu	'fetch water'	utufia
sio	'surround'	siomia
inu	'drink'	inumia

Use the method of internal reconstruction to do the following tasks:

i)   Reconstruct the original form of the Form B affix.   (1 mark)

ii)   Reconstruct the original forms for all the verbs. (5 marks)

iii)   Given that the Form B word for 'close' is /punitia/, can you predict the Form A counterpart? Why?   (2 marks)

iv)   From which forms can the base forms be determined?

                (2 marks)

c) When might you want to use the method of Internal Reconstruction instead of the Comparative method of Reconstruction   (3 marks)

                [25 marks]

SECTION D
MISCELENEOUS

Answer Question 7

Question 7

a) Consider the following sentences from Malay and do the tasks that follow:

1. *di padaŋ itu ada sæor ləbu*
There is an ox in the field
2. *saya ada sækor ayam*
I have a hen
3. *saya nampak sækor kuda*
I see a horse
4. *səoraŋ murid məŋhadiri səkolah itu*
A pupil attends the school
5. *ada səoraŋ peladʒar di dalam səkolah itu*
There is one student in the school
6. *di padaŋ itu ada baŋak ləbu*
There are many oxen in the field
7. *saya ada baŋak ayam*
I have many hens
8. *saya nampak baŋak kuda*
I see some horses
9. *ramai murid-murid məŋhadiri səkolah itu*
Many pupils attend the school
10. *peladʒar-peladʒar sədaŋ bəladʒar*
Students are studying

(i) Match each of the following notions with a morpheme in the Malay data:

Nouns	Verbs	Articles	
ox	attend	a/one	
field	see	the	(4 marks)
hen			
school			

ii) Briefly discuss the formation of the plural in Malay. Support your points with relevant examples from the data. (5 marks)

iii) Considering the data above, compare and contrast the article-noun word order pattern in Malay and English. (2 marks)

b) Consider the data below from a Proto language and Lenakel and do the tasks which follow:

Proto Language	Lenakel
*namatana	nɨmrɨn

Give a step by step derivation of the Lenakel form from the Proto language. Name all the phonological processes, which took place in the derivation, in their order, and briefly account for the order you suggest.

(9 marks)

c) Using the Auosegmental analysis, derive the Old Irish word [kene:l] 'gender' from the Proto form /*kenetl/. (5 marks)

[25 marks]