

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION  
JULY 2015

**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**

With illustrations from any language, discuss the following linguistic terms and concepts:

- |       |                                  |     |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----|
| i)    | Implicational universals;        | (3) |
| ii)   | Agglutinating language;          | (3) |
| iii)  | Daughter language;               | (3) |
| iv)   | Phoneme space;                   | (5) |
| v)    | Partial regressive assimilation; | (3) |
| vi)   | Haplology;                       | (3) |
| vii)  | Conditioned sound change;        | (3) |
| viii) | Prothesis                        | (2) |

**[25 Marks]**

**Question 2**

- a) Does a proto-language die out and then get replaced by its daughter languages? What is, for example, the nature of the relationship between Latin and Italian?  
(8 marks)
- b) The scope of historical linguistics can be viewed from both a practical point and from a theoretical perspective. Discuss.  
(8 marks)
- c) What do you think is the importance to historical linguistics of the fact that Sanskrit, Latin, and Greek were written languages? Would we have been able to make the same advances if they were not?  
(5 marks)
- d) Distinguish between Historical linguistics and History of linguistics. Support your argument with examples.  
(4 marks)

**[25 Marks]**

**SECTION B**  
**COMPARATIVE RECONSTRUCTION**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 3**

Consider the correspondence sets from five Polynesian languages:

	<b>Tongan</b>	<b>Samoaan</b>	<b>Tahitian</b>	<b>Maori</b>	<b>Hawaiian</b>
1.	m	m	m	m	m
2.	n	n	n	n	n
3.	ŋ	ŋ	?	ŋ	n
4.	p	p	p	p	p
5.	t	t	t	t	k
6.	k	?	?	k	?

In addition, note that Tongan has kept the phoneme \*h in certain words, which has been lost in all other Polynesian languages. Furthermore, Tongan has lost the phoneme \*r from its inventory, which was kept as /r/ or became /l/ in the other four languages:

Tongan	Samoaan	Tahitian	Maori	Hawaiian	Proto-Polynesian
7. h	∅	∅	∅	∅	*h
8. ∅	l	r	r	l	*r

- (a) On the basis of this information and the following data, identify the 5 remaining consonant correspondences: (5 marks)

<b>Tongan</b>	<b>Samoaan</b>	<b>Tahitian</b>	<b>Maori</b>	<b>Hawaiian</b>	
leʔo	leo	reo	reo	leo	'voice'
ʔuha	ua	ua	ua	ua	'rain'
lili	lili	riri	riri	lili	'angry'
hae	sae	hae	hae	hae	'to tear'
hihi	isi	ihi	ihi	ihi	'strip'
huu	ulu	uru	uru	ulu	'to enter'
fue	fue	hue	hue	hue	'vine'
afo	afo	aho	aho	aho	'fishline'
vela	vela	vera	wera	wela	'hot'
hiva	iva	iva	iwa	iwa	'nine'

	Tongan	Samoan	Tahitian	Maori	Hawaiian
9.	l	-	-	-	-
10.	ʔ	-	-	-	-
11.	h	-	-	-	-
12.	f	-	-	-	-
13.	v	-	-	-	-

b) For each of the correspondence sets in (1) – (6) and (9) – (13), reconstruct a proto-sound.  
(5 marks)

c) Complete the following comparative table by filling in the missing words:  
(10 marks)

Tongan	Samoan	Tahitian	Maori	Hawaiian	
kaukau	—	—	kaukau	—	‘to bathe’
—	mata	—	—	—	‘eye’
—	tafe	—	—	kahe	‘to flow’
laʔe	—	—	rae	—	‘forehead’
—	—	—	—	waʔa	‘canoe’
laŋo	—	—	raŋo	—	‘fly’

d) Based on the data above, reconstruct the following words: ‘voice’, ‘angry’, ‘vine’, ‘strip’.  
‘to tear’.  
(5 marks)

[25 Marks]

#### Question 4

Consider the data below from three Middle-Indic languages and answer the questions which follow:

Magadhi Prakrit	Pali	Maharastri Prakrit	
1. abala	apara	avara	‘other’
2. diba	dipa	diva	‘lamp’
3. hasta	hatt <sup>h</sup> a	hatt <sup>h</sup> a	‘hand’
4. loga	loka	loa	‘world’
5. nala	rara	nara	‘man’
6. nisp <sup>h</sup> ala	nipp <sup>h</sup> ala	nipp <sup>h</sup> ala	‘fruitless’
7. pask <sup>h</sup> aladi	pakk <sup>h</sup> alati	pakk <sup>h</sup> alai	‘he stumbles’
8. pida	pita	pia	‘father’
9. puspa	pupp <sup>h</sup> a	pupp <sup>h</sup> a	‘flower’

- a) Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the nine items provided in the data. (9 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-Middle Indic. (9 marks)
- c) Of the three languages, which one do you consider to be  
i) the most conservative?  
ii) the most innovative? (5 marks)  
Give reasons for your opinion.
- d) Given that the Maharastri Prakrit word for 'dry' is [sukk<sup>h</sup>a], what would be its cognate form in-  
i) Pali?  
ii) Magadhi Prakrit? (2 marks)

[25 marks]

SECTION C  
INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION

Choose one question from this section

**Question 5**

- a) Examine the data below from Huli (spoken in Papua New Guinea) and do the tasks which follow:

A.	ebero	'I am coming'
	ebere	'you are coming'
	ibira	's(h)e is coming'

	ibiru	'I came'
	ibiri	'you came'
	ibija	's(h)e came'
B.	biraro	'I am sitting'
	birare	'you are sitting'
	birara	's(h)e is sitting'
	biraru	'I sat'
	birari	'you sat'
	biraja	's(h)e sat'
C.	wero	'I am putting'
	were	'you are putting'
	wira	's(h)e is putting'
	wiru	'I put'
	wija	's(h)e put'
	widaba	'put everyone!'
D.	homaro	'I am dying'
	homare	'you are dying'
	homara	's(h)e is dying'
	homaru	'I died'
	homari	'you died'
	homaja	's(h)e died'

- i) Reconstruct the original roots for the verbs; come, sit, put, and die.  
(4 marks)
- ii) Identify the words whose roots have undergone changes in (A) and then give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms to show why they have changed.  
(6 marks)
- iii) In the same category (A), identify the words that have retained their forms of roots and give good reasons why they have retained such forms.  
(6 marks)
- b) Consider the data below from Prot-Slavic and Bulgarian and do the tasks which follow:

Proto-Slavic	Bulgarian
*gladuka	glatkə
*blizuka	bliskə
*lovuka	lofkə

- i) Specify the changes between Proto-Slavic and Bulgarian. (3 marks)

- ii) Name the phonological processes, following their order of application, in the derivation of the Bulgarian forms, and briefly account for the order you suggest.

(6 marks)

[25 Marks]

### Question 6

- a) Examine the data below from Bislama (spoken in Vanuati) and do the tasks which follow:

Root		Transitive verb	
rit	'read'	ritim	'read'
bon	'burnt'	bonem	'burn'
smok	'smoke'	smokem	'smoke'
skras	'itch'	skrasem	'scratch'
slak	'loose'	slakem	'loosen'
stil	'steal'	stilim	'steal'
rus	'barbecue'	rusum	'barbecue'
tait	'tight'	taitem	'tighten'
boil	'boil'	boilem	'boil'
ciki	'cheeky'	cikim	'give cheek to'
pe	'payment'	pem	'pay for'
rere	'ready'	rerem	'prepare'
drai	'dry'	draim	'dry'
draun	'sink'	draunem	'push under water'
melek	'milk'	melekem	'squeeze liquid out of'
level	'level'	levelem	'level out'

- i) State what you think the original form of the transitive suffix might have been.  
(1 mark)
- ii) Identify the words whose suffixes have undergone changes and then give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms to show why they have changed.  
(9 marks)
- iii) Identify the words that have retained their forms of suffixes and give good reasons why they have retained such forms.  
(12 marks)
- b) When might you want to use the method of Internal Reconstruction instead of the Comparative Method?  
(3 marks)

[25 Marks]

**SECTION D  
MISCELENEOUS**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 7**

The Family Tree Model and the Wave Theory Model are both used in representing relationship between languages. Discuss these two models, providing evidence for each one of them. Which model do you think is more plausible and why?

[25 Marks]

**Question 8**

- a) "There is no precise figure for the number of languages spoken in the world today". Provide evidence to support the authenticity of this statement along with relevant examples. (10 marks)
- b) Study the data provided below from four languages of the Tupi-Guarani family. Then do the tasks which follow:

GUARANI	TUPINAMBA	SIRIONO	GUARAYO	
kitʃi	kiti	kisi	kitʃi	'cut'
tʃi	tiŋ	sĩ	tʃi	'white'
meʔə	meʔeŋ	meə	meə	'give'
kwa	pwar	kwa	kwa	'tie'
ki	kib	ki	ki	'louse'
kiʔa	kiʔa	kia	kia	'dirty'

- i) Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the six items provided in the data. (3 marks)
- ii) 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-Tupi-Guarani. (6)



- iii) Using distinctive features, formalize any **two** phonological processes that you mentioned in (ii) above (6)

[25 Marks]