UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION
DECEMBER 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

    a) Historical and Comparative Linguistics has been defined as the study of language change (O'Grady and Dobrovolsky 1987:193). With illustrations from English and / or any other Indo-European language, discuss the TRIGGERS of this language change.

                                                  [12 Marks]

    b) 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.   [6 Marks]

iii) Considering the data above, compare and contrast the article-noun word order pattern in Malay and English. [3 Marks]

[25 Marks]

Question 2

a) Distinguish between the following types of sound change. Give for each argument an example from any language:

    i)   Lenition and fortition;

    ii)   epenthesis and metathesis;

    iii)   aphaeresis and prothesis; [20 Marks]

    iv)   phonetic unpacking and vowel breaking;

    v)   Regressive assimilation and progressive sssimilation.

b) By making use of examples, discuss compensatory lengthening. [5 Marks]

[25 Marks]

SECTION B
COMPARATIVE RECONSTRUCTION
Choose one question from this section

Question 3

Consider the data below from five Romance languages:

Spanish	Sardinian	French	Portuguese	Rumanian	
riβa	ripa	riv	riba	ripə	'embankment'
amiɣa	amika	ami	amiga	--	'female friend'
kopa	kuppa	kup	kopa	kupə	'cup'
gota	gutta	gut	gota	gutə	'drop'

Now answer the following questions:

a)   Identify and write down the sound correspondences for each of the four items provided in the data. [5 Marks]

b) For each set of sound correspondences you identified in (a), reconstruct the proto-sound. [5 Marks]

c) According to O'Grady et al (1996), the Proto-Romance word for 'embankment' is /*ripa/. State the phonological processes which took place during the evolution of the words in the following languages from Proto-Romance. If more than one process occurred, name them all in their order of occurrence:
   i) Spanish,
   ii) French, [8 Marks]
   iii) Portuguese, and
   iv) Rumanian

d) List the remaining three Proto-Romance words on the basis of your reconstruction of the Proto-Romance sounds in (b) above. [3 Marks]

e) Giving reasons, state which of the five languages do you consider to be

   i) the most innovative?
   ii) the most conservative? [4 Marks]

[25 Marks]

Question 4

Consider the data below from Spanish, Sardinian, and Rumanian, all of which are Romance languages, and answer the questions which follow:

Spanish	Sardinian	Rumanian	
hilo	filu	fir	'thread'
vida	bita	vita	'life'
vino	binu	vin	'wine'
riva	riba	ripa	'bank'
rio	riu	riu	'river'
riso	rizu	ris	'laugh'

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

b) Wherever the proto-word has changed in the daughter language, name the daughter language and state the phonological process which took place during the development of the daughter language. If more than one process occurred, name them all in their order of occurrence. [8 Marks]

c) Using distinctive features, formalise the processes that took place in the development of the following words from the proto-language:

    a. [vida] 'life' (Spanish).

    b. [ris] 'laugh' (Rumanian).   [7 Marks]

d) Given that [muta] is the Sardinian word for 'change', what would be its cognate form in

    a. Spanish

    b. Rumanian   [4 Marks]

[25 marks]

SECTION C
INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION
Choose one question from this section

Question 5

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.   [12Marks]

b)   When might you want to use the method of Internal Reconstruction instead of the Comparative Method?   [3 Marks)]

                                                                    [25 Marks]

Question 6

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	məndʒahit
'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]

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) With the aid of illustrations from any language(s), discuss the relationship between linguistic typology and language universals.   [8 Marks]

b) Consider the following vowel systems from Classical Latin and Tonkawa and answer the question that follows:

Classical Latin		Tonkawa	
i	u	i	o
e	o	e	a
a			

Both Classical Latin and Tonkawa have the vowels /o/, /e/, and /a/ in their vowel systems. Give a description of these vowels in each of the languages, and briefly account for the description.

[6 Marks]

c) 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? Explain.
       [3 Marks]

[25 Marks]