

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 2016**

**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 the aid of illustrations from any relevant language, discuss each of the following linguistic concepts in relation to language change:

- a) Syntactic borrowing;
- b) Substratum borrowing;
- c) Metaphors;
- d) Taboos and Euphemisms; and
- e) Semantic broadening.

[25 marks]

Question 2

- a) With the aid of illustrations from any language(s), discuss the relationship between linguistic typology and language universals. [6 Marks]
- b) Consider the data below from a Proto language and Lenakel and do the tasks which follow:

Proto Language	Lenakel
*namatana	nimrɪn

Name the phonological processes, in their order, which took place in the derivation of the Lenakel forms, and briefly account for the order you suggest.

[9 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) How does typology contribute to our understanding of language change?

[5 Marks]

[25 Marks]

SECTION B
COMPARATIVE RECONSTRUCTION

Answer Question 3

Question 3

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 ^h a	hatt ^h a	'hand'
4. loga	loka	loa	'world'
5. nala	rara	nara	'man'
6. nisp ^h ala	nipp ^h ala	nipp ^h ala	'fruitless'
7. pask ^h aladi	pakk ^h alati	pakk ^h alai	'he stumbles'
8. pida	pita	pia	'father'
9. puspa	pupp ^h a	pupp ^h 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 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^ha], 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 4

- a) Examine the following Huli numerals which are given in their basic forms used in counting:

Counting	Ordinal	
tebo	tebone	'three'
ma	mane	'four'
dau	dauni	'five'
waraga	waragane	'six'
hali	halini	'eight'
di	dini	'nine'
hombene	hombene	'eleven'

- i) Reconstruct the original ordinal suffix. [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. [6 Marks]
- iii) Identify the words that have retained their forms of suffixes and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. [8 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
silā	'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. [1Mark]
- 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]

[25 Marks]

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 pronominal suffixes. [6 Marks]
- ii) Reconstruct the original roots for the verbs; come, sit, put, and die. [4 Marks]
- iii) Identify the words whose roots have undergone changes in (C) and then give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms to show why they have changed. [6 Marks]
- iv) In the same category (C), identify the words that have retained their forms of roots and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. [6 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 6

Examine the data below from Bahasa Indonesia in which the active and passive verb forms are presented and do the tasks which follow:

Active	Passive	
məmbuka	dibuka	'open'
məndapat	didapat	'get'
mənjelaskan	dijelaskan	'explain'
məngosok	digosok	'rub'
məmərlukan	dipərlukan	'need'
mənanam	ditanam	'plant'
mənarəŋ	dikarəŋ	'compose'
mənjurus	diurus	'arrange'
mənejə	diejə	'spell'
mənjambil	diambil	'take'
məjikat	diikat	'tie'
məjərikan	dijərikan	'give a fright'
məjhapuskan	dihapuskan	'wipe'

- (i) Use the internal method of reconstruction to suggest what the original active and passive prefixes might have been. [2 Marks]
- (ii) Identify those words whose prefixes in the active form 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 the active prefix and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. [9 Marks]

[25 marks]

Question 7

- a) Consider the data below from Proto-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. [2 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. [8 Marks]
- b) “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.

[15 Marks]

[25Marks]