UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2016
B. A. DEGREE

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

COURSE NUMBER: AL413/IDE-AL413

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

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

2.   ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION A

3.   ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B

4.   LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISM SHOULD BE USED
WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

5.   ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED

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INVIGILATOR.

SECTION A

LEXICOSTATISTICS AND GLOTTOCHRONOLOGY

Answer Question 1

Question 1

Examine the shared cognate percentage figures for the following 10 hypothetical languages:

A									
89	B								
88	87	C							
28	30	29	D						
26	34	30	86	E					
28	27	32	56	54	F				
27	29	31	57	53	62	G			
30	33	36	54	56	63	64	H		
22	28	27	53	51	66	65	87	I	
31	24	21	56	54	67	68	86	89	J

With reference to the above data,

(i)   Find out which languages are most closely related to each other and group them accordingly.   (3 marks)

(ii)   Work out the shared cognate percentages between the different groups, to find the second level of linguistic relationship.   (8 marks)

(iii)   Show the relationship of these languages in a family tree diagram. (5marks)

(iv)   Estimate according to glottochronology the period of time the following languages may have separated from each other.

        Language A from language G
        Language B from language E   (9 marks)
        Language D from language J

Note: Use the formula below to work out the time depth:
        $t = \dfrac{\log C}{2 \log r}$

The value of **r** in this formula is set at 0.805

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Answer Question 2 and any other two questions in this section

Question 2

(a) Study the Lamba data given below and answer the questions that follow:

	Underlying representation	Surface representation	
1.	iN-βeβa	imbeβa	"mouse"
	iN-βaŋgo	imaŋgo	"bonds"
2.	iN-loβo	indoβo	"hook"
	iN-lembo	inembo	"tattoos"

i)   Account for the difference in the stem-initial segment in [imbeβa] and /iN-βeβa/ in (1) and between [indoβo] and / iN-loβo / in (2) above.   (4 marks)

ii)   Account for the stem-initial segment in [imbeβa] and / imaŋgo / in (1) and between [indoβo] and /inembo/ in (2) above.   (6 marks)

iii) With illustrations from siSwati, discuss any **five** strategies used to resolve vowel hiatus   (15 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 3

a)   Study the Lamba data provided below and do the tasks which follow:

-cit-	'do'	-citil-	'do for'
-pat-	'scold'	-patil-	'scold for'
-kunt-	'shake'	-kuntil-	'shake for'
-cet-	'spy'	-cetel-	'spy for'
-sonk-	'pay tax'	-sonkel-	'pay tax for'
-lim-	'cultivate'	-limin-	'cultivate for'
-kan-	'deny'	-kanin-	'deny for'
-pum-	'beat'	-pumin-	'beat for'
-fweny-	'scratch'	-fwenyen-	'scratch for'

-pon-	'fall'	-ponen-	'fall for'

i) Name the verbal extension found in the data above. (2 marks)

ii) List the allomorphs of this extension in Lamba, and describe the distribution of the allomorphs. (8 marks)

b) Compare the Lamba data provided in (a) above with those given below:

-alul-	'change'	-alwil-	'change for'
-cofol-	'bend'	-cofwel-	'bend for'
-kamun-	'tear'	-kamwin-	'tear for'
-konon-	'break'	-konwen-	'break for'

Explain how the extension you mentioned in (a (i)) above operates in these items.
(6 marks)

c) Provide a list of Meinhoff's Proto-Bantu nominal class number and prefixes (1-9) and show what they become in siSwati. (9 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 4

a) With the aid of examples from Ganda and Lamba, discuss the similarities and differences in the operation of Meinhof's Law in the two languages.
(7 marks)

b) List the Proto-Bantu nominal prefixes 19-23 and for each class show how the Proto-Bantu prefix is reflected in any **one** modern day Bantu language.
(5 marks)

d) Wherever the Proto-Bantu prefix has changed in a modern Bantu language illustrated in (a) above, state the phonological process which occurred during the development of the modern Bantu language. (5 marks)

e) With the use of distinctive features, formalise any of the two processes you mentioned in (d) above. (8 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 5

a) Swadesh (1955) discussed guidelines for the preparation of word lists used in lexicostatistics. Discuss **six** of the guidelines, giving *one* example under each point.
(19 marks)

b)   Lexicostatisticians classify and subgroup languages according to their shared cognate percentages in core vocabulary. List the **six** subgroups.   (6 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 6

a) Consider the following data from four Bantu languages and do the tasks that follow.

SiSwati	IsiZulu	S.Sesotho	Bemba	
umfati	umfazi	mʊsadi	umukaʃi	'woman/wife'
umuti	umuzi	mʊtsɪ	umuʃi	'village/home'
emanti	amanzi	metsi	ameʃi	'water'
imbuti	imbuzi	podi	imbuʃi	'goat'
tinkʰuni	izinkuni	dibeso	inkuni	'firewood'

i)   Which of the four languages whose data appear above do you consider to share cognates, if any? Justify your claim.   (3 marks)

ii)   In the languages you consider to share cognate forms, identify and list the consonant correspondences found in the nominal stems. Do not include identical sets.   (3 marks)

iii)   For each set of consonant correspondences you identified in (a (ii)) above, reconstruct the proto-consonant and state the strategy you used to arrive at the proto-consonant.   (3 marks)

iv)   State the phonological processes which took place during the evolution of the following forms from the Proto-language:

   1.   The Bemba stem [umukaʃi] 'woman/wife'.
   2.   The IsiZulu stem [imbuzi] 'goat'
   3.   The siSwati stem [tinkʰuni] 'firewood'   (6 marks)

b) The difference between partial reduplication and complete reduplication is rather unclear and relative. Discuss this statement, using examples from any relevant Bantu languages.
      (10 marks)

[25 marks]