

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION
DECEMBER 2015**

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

COURSE NUMBER: ALL103

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. CHOOSE TWO QUESTIONS FROM EACH SECTION.**
 - 3. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING, AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.**
 - 4. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

**SECTION A
PHONETICS**

Answer Question 1 and any other question from this section

Question 1

- a) Discuss two advantages of describing speech sounds acoustically. [4]
- b) What distinguishes the following sets of sounds in terms of formant structure:
i) Vowels from nasals;
ii) Nasals from laterals; [12]
iii) Voiced sounds from voiceless sounds;
iv) Fricatives from stops.
- c) Discuss the following terms in relation to acoustic phonetics:
i) Sound waves;
ii) Frequency; [9]
iii) Pitch.

[25 Marks]

Question 2

Write the IPA symbols representing the following phonetic descriptions, and illustrate each of the sounds with a word in a language that contains the sound:

- i) A voiced interdental fricative;
- ii) A voiced glottal fricative;
- iii) A voiceless labiodental fricative;
- iv) A low back vowel;
- v) A voiced bilabial fricative;
- vi) A voiceless alveolar lateral fricative;
- vii) A voiceless alveopalatal ejective affricate;
- viii) A voiced coarticulated labiovelar stop;
- ix) A voiced alveolar implosive;
- x) A voiceless alveopalatal fricative;
- xi) A voiced velar nasal;
- xii) A voiced lateral liquid;
- xiii) A voiced lateral fricative;
- xiv) A voiced palatal approximant;
- xv) A schwa;
- xvi) A voiceless bilabial fricative;
- xvii) A voiceless glottal stop;

- xviii) A low central vowel;
- xix) A high back lax vowel;
- xx) A voiceless velar fricative;
- xxi) A voiced rhotic liquid;
- xxii) A voiced alveolar affricate
- xxiii) A mid tense front vowel;
- xxiv) A low-high back diphthong;
- xxv) A voiceless alveolar retroflex fricative.

[25 marks]

Question 3

Transcribe phonetically the siSwati items which follow:

- | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------------|
| i) | bhala | 'write' |
| ii) | bala | 'count' |
| iii) | hishwa | 'choke' |
| iv) | hlola | 'peep' |
| v) | ngena | 'enter' |
| vi) | gijima | 'run' |
| vii) | guba | 'dig' |
| viii) | kona | 'take a corner' |
| ix) | kona | 'it' |
| x) | jova | 'inject' |
| xi) | citsa | 'pour' |
| xii) | kungcola | 'dirt' |
| xiii) | indvodza | 'man' |
| xiv) | dlala | 'play' |
| xv) | inja | 'dog' |
| xvi) | hlabelela | 'sing' |

[25 marks]

SECTION B PHONOLOGY

Answer Question 4 and any other question from this section

Question 4

- a) The following words are all regular plural forms of English nouns:

pots
wishes
languages

pegs
taps
books
stitches
terms
pads

- (i) List the allomorphs of the plural morpheme in English. [3]
- (ii) Which allomorph makes the best underlying form? Why? [3]
- (iii) State in words the conditioning factors that account for the presence of the different allomorphs of the English plural morpheme. [6]

b) Consider the following data from Ganda, a language spoken in Uganda, and do the tasks which follow:

kola	'do'
wawaabira	'accuse'
lwana	'fight'
buulira	'tell'
lya	'eat'
omugole	'bride'
effirimbi	'whistle'
olulimi	'tongue'
wulira	'hear'
omuliro	'fire'
eddwaliro	'hospital'
jjukira	'remember'

- (i) Are the liquids [l] and [r] allophones of the same phoneme in Ganda or do they belong to separate phonemes? [2]
- (ii) If you believe they belong to separate phonemes, give evidence from the data. If you believe they are allophones of the same phoneme, list the conditioning environments. [5]
- (iii) Give a phonemic representation for the first **six (6)** words. [6]

[25 marks]

Question 5

a) Distinguish between each of the following linguistic terms and concepts. Give for each argument an example from any language.

- (i) Allophones in free variation and allophones in complementary distribution;

- (ii) Minimal pair and near minimal pair; [12]
- (iii) Accidental gaps and systematic gaps.

b) Name the single feature that distinguishes the following pairs of sounds:

- i) [i] : [ɪ]
- ii) [k] : [x]
- iii) [f] : [v] [7]
- iv) [i] : [e]
- v) [ɦ] : [h]
- vi) [z] : [d]
- vii) [kʰ] : [k]

c) Using phonetic cover terms, formalize the rules expressed in ordinary English words:

- i) A glide is inserted between vowels.
- ii) A consonant is deleted when it occurs before another consonant.
- iii) Voiceless stops are aspirated in word-initial position. [6]

Question 6

a) Using distinctive features, formalize the following phonological rules:

- i) Non-labial consonants are labialized when they occur before the vowel /u/ and /o/.
- ii) A voiceless consonant becomes voiced intervocalically. [15]
- iii) A voiced bilabial stop becomes a voiced bilabial fricative between vowels.
- iv) The vowel /i/ is deleted before the vowel /e/.
- v) A voiceless alveolar stop becomes voiced word-finally.

b) In each of the groups (i-v) below there is one odd member, the rest belonging to a natural class. Identify the odd one out and say which feature is common to the remainder.

- i. [d, ʒ, z, f, ʃ]
- ii. [x, ʁ, ŋ, k, p]
- iii. [n, l, ʙ, d, ŋ] [10]
- iv. [v, n, m, ɔ, β]
- v. [s, t, d, ts, n]

[25 marks]