

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

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE I

COURSE NUMBER: IDE-AL110

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION 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
MORPHOLOGY**

Answer Question 1

Question 1

- (a) Consider the following forms from IciBemba, a Bantu language spoken in Zambia, and then answer the questions that follow:

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| alalanda | “s/he speaks |
| ulalanda | “you (singular) speak” |
| tulalanda | “we speak” |
| mulalanda | “you (plural) speak” |
| balalanda | “they speak” |
| ndalanda | “I speak” |
| nkalanda | “I will speak” |
| tukalanda | “we will speak” |

- i) What is the iciBemba morpheme for “I”? (2)
ii) What is the present tense morpheme? (2)
iii) Which are the allomorphs of the present tense morpheme? (2)
iv) State the distribution of the allomorphs you identified in (3) above. (5)
v) Given that [tatubwela] means “we do not come”, how would you say the following in IciBemba?
1. They do not come
 2. I will come
 3. You (plural) come (9)

- (b) Indicate the word formation process responsible for the creation of the following words:

- i. street light
- ii. Rob
- iii. housekeep
- iv. empty (Verb) (5)
- v. UK

[25 marks]

**SECTION B
PHONETICS**

Choose one Question from this section

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 C PHONOLOGY

Choose one 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) [f̥] : [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]

SECTION D
MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS
Choose one question from this section

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, ʧ]
 - ii. [x, ʝ, ŋ, k, p]
 - iii. [n, l, ʎ, d, ŋ] [10]
 - iv. [v, n, m, ɔ, β]
 - v. [s, t, d, ʦ, n]

[25 marks]

Question 7

- a) Consider the data below from Tagalog:

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| sulat | 'write' |
| sinulat | 'was written' |
| susulat | 'will write' |
| basag | 'break' |
| binasag | 'was broken' |
| bumabasag | 'is breaking' |
| babasag | 'will break' |

Describe the process involved in the formation of the following:

- i) past tense;

- ii) present tense progressive; and [6]
 - iii) future tense.
- b) Assign a morphological tree structure to each of the following words:
- i) deactivated
 - ii) personalize [10]
 - iii) disadvantaged
- c) Discuss the concept of Voice Onset Time (VOT) as used in aspiration. [5]
- d) The combination of letters *gh* can be pronounced in a number of different ways. Provide a minimum of 4 different examples. For each word you find, indicate the sound that is represented by the combination *gh*.

[4]

[25 marks]