UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 2016

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE 1

COURSE NUMBER: IDE-AL110

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

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

2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION AND THE FOURTH QUESTION FROM EITHER SECTION A OR SECTION B OR SECTION C.

3. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING, AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.

4. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.

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SECTION A
PHONETICS
Choose one question from this section

Question 1

(a) The following transcription represents one person's reading of this passage. Write out the passage using Standard English orthography.

[ɪt ɪz pɔsəbl tə trænskraɪb fənɛtɛklɪ ɛnɪ ʌtrɛns, ɪn ɛnɪ læŋgwɪʤ, ɪn sɛvrəl dɪfrənt weɪz ɔl əv ðəm juzɪŋ ðɪ ælfəbɛt ənd kənvɛnʃənz əv ðɪ aɪ pɪ eɪ. (ðə seɪm θiŋ ɪz pɔsəbl wɪð mowst ɪntənæʃənl fənɛtɪk ælfəbɛts) ə trænskrɪpʃn wɪtʃ ɪz meɪd baɪ juzɪŋ lɛtəz əv ðə sɪmpləst pɔsəbl ʃeɪps, ənd ɪn ðə sɪmpləst pɔsəbl nʌmbə, ɪz kɔld ə sɪmpl fownɪmɪk trænskrɪpʃn] [16 Marks]

(b) 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)   Voiceless glottal fricative
    (ii)   Voiced alveopalatal affricate
    (iii) Voiced alveolar implosive
    (iv) Low front unrounded vowel
    (v)   High tense rounded vowel   [9 Marks]
    (vi) Voiced glottal fricative
    (vii) Voiced lateral alveolar fricative
    (viii) Alveolar lateral liquid
    (ix) High back tense unrounded vowel

[25 Marks]

Question 2

a) Provide a three term label description of each of the sounds represented by the following IPA symbols:

[g]   [m]   [ʣ]   [ɗ]   [ʒ]   [X]   [j]   [ɦ]
[β]   [tʃʼ] [ɬ]   [b]   [x]   [N]   [ʤ] [n]

Example: [f]	**Glottal activity**	**Manner**	**Place**
	Voiceless	fricative	labiodental

[25 marks]

SECTION B

PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY
Choose __one__ question from this section

Question 3

a) Consider the data below from Inuktitut a language spoken by native Canadians then do the tasks that follow:

iglumut	"to a house"
ukiaq	"late fall"
aiviq	"walrus"
aniguvit	"if you leave"
aglu	"seal's breathing hole"
iglumit	"from a house"
anigavit	"because you leave"
pinna	"that one up there"
ani	"female's brother"
iglu	"house"
panna	"that place up there"
aivuq	"she goes home"
ini	"place, spot"
ukiuq	"winter"

    i)   List all the minimal pairs found in the data.   [7 Marks]

    ii)   Give all the vowel phonemes in Inuktitut, based on the given data.

                             [3 Marks]

b) What distinctive feature, if any, do the following sets of sound segments share?

    i)   vowels and semi vowels;

    ii)   consonants and vowels;

    iii)   stops and affricates;   [5 Marks]

    iv)   bilabials and rounded vowels;

    v)   liquids and semi vowels

c) Using distinctive features, formalize the following rules:

    i)   The sequence /a/ /u/ becomes [o] when a morpheme boundary intervenes between them.   [6 Marks]

    ii)   A voiceless stop becomes voiced between vowels.   [4 Marks]

[25 Marks]

Question 4

a) In Southern Congo, a Bantu language spoken in Angola, the non-palatal segments [t, s, and z] are in complementary distribution with their palatal counterparts [tʃ, ʃ, ʒ], as shown in the following words:

[tobola]	"to bore a hole"
[tʃina]	"to cut"
[kesoka]	"to be cut"
[ŋkoʃi]	"lion"
[zeŋa]	"to cut"
[ʒima]	"to stretch"
[kasu]	"emaciation"
[tʃiba]	"banana"
[zevo]	"then"
[aʒimola]	"alms"
[kunezulu]	"to heaven"
[tanu]	"five"

i) State the distribution of each pair of segments given below:

$$[t] - [tʃ]$$
$$[s] - [ʃ]$$
$$[z] - [ʒ]$$ [6 Marks]

ii) Which phones should be used as the underlying phoneme for each pair? State the reasons for your choice.   [8 Marks]

b) Study the data from siSwati presented below:

dᶻilit'a	'take down'
dᵛonsa	'pull'
dᶻiŋa	'be needy'
dᵛuma	'thunder'
dᵛuɓa	'refuse smth.'
lidᵛolo	'knee'
dᵛula	'hit heavily'
dᶻaɓula	'tear'
dᶻelela	'offend'
dᶻadᶻe	'sister'

i) On the basis of the data, are [ɓ] and [m] separate phonemes or allophones of the same phoneme? If you think they are separate phonemes, provide evidence from the data. If you think they are allophones state their distribution.
                                    [6 Marks]

ii)   Based on the same data, are the phones [d^z] and [d^v] separate phonemes of siSwati or are they allophones of the same phoneme. If you think they are separate phonemes, give your reasons. If you think they are allophones state their distribution.   **[5Marks]**

[25 Marks]

SECTION C
MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS
Choose one question from this section

Question 5

a) Consider the following data from an African language called Maninka:

bugo	'hit'	bugoli	'hitting'
dila	'repair'	dilali	'repairing'
don	'come in'	donni	'coming in'
dumu	'eat'	dumuni	'eating'
gwen	'chase'	gwenni	'chasing'

i)   What are the two forms for the morpheme '–ing' in Maninka?   [2 Marks]

ii)   Can you predict which phonetic form will occur? If so, state the rule.   [3 Marks]

iii)   What are the '–ing' forms for the following verbs:

1. da   'lie down'
2. men   'hear'   [4 Marks]
3. famu   'understand'
4. sunogo   'sleep'

b) The sounds [k] and [f] are associated with different orthographic representations (letters). For each sound, provide at least 4 different examples, from any language. In your examples, underline the part of the word that represents the [k] and the [f] sound.   [8 Marks]

c) The combination of letters *gh* can be pronounced in different ways. Provide a minimum of 4 different examples, from any language. For each word you find, indicate the sound that is represented by the combination *gh*.   [8 Marks]

[25Marks]

Question 6

a) With the aid of examples from relevant languages, define the following word-formation processes:

   i)   acronyms
   ii)   back-formations
   iii) clippings   [10 Marks]
   iv)   loan translations
   v)   extensions

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

   i)   aspirated and unaspirated
   ii)   voiced and voiceless   [15 marks]
   iii) Pulmonic and glottalic airstream mechanism

                                                [25 Marks]