

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

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS: BANTU

COURSE NUMBER: IDE AL312

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.
 2. CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A.
 3. CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B
 4. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISM SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

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

SECTION A

Answer Question 1 and any other question from this section

- a) Discuss and critically evaluate the earliest records of Bantu from the following nationalities.
- i) Arabs
 - ii) English (9 marks)
 - iii) Portuguese
- b) Greenberg based his classification of African languages on three principles. Discuss, with illustrations from any relevant Bantu language(s) any two of these principles. (8 marks)
- c) Guthrie used the empirical method in his classification of Bantu languages. Discuss any two of the linguistic features that Guthrie used in distinguishing Bantu languages from the other languages. (8 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 2

- a) Name the 'scholar' who made each of the following contributions to Bantu linguistics:
- i) The first one to use the term 'class' in connection with nouns.
 - ii) Discovered the 'alliterative' concord in isiXhosa. (10 marks)
 - iii) Produced the first seTswana grammar.
 - iv) Published the first grammatical description of the Ndongo/Kimbundu language.
 - v) Provided the earliest record of a full sentence in Bantu.
- b) Name any two 19th century scholars who distinguished clicks from the other Bantu consonants by means of a number over the syllable. (2 marks)
- c) Litchtentestein distinguished Hottentots from Kaffers (Bantu) by their built, body features, colour, customs and speech. Which of these features would you consider to be linguistic and why? (6 marks)

- d) According to Doke and Cole (1961), Andrew Sparrman (1772-1776) observed that 'Hottentots use clicks, and distinguished them from Bantu in that Bantu languages do not use clicks'. Critically, evaluate the above statement.

(7 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 3

Discuss the contributions made to Bantu linguistic studies by Giacinto Brusciotto

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Answer Question 4 and any other question from this section

Question 4

- a) Discuss **four** ways in which the phonological characteristics of the Nguni group of languages are different from those of the Sotho group. (16 marks)
- b) With the use of tree diagrams, briefly discuss how each of the following scholars classified the languages of "South Africa":

- i) J. Torrend
ii) H. Litchenstein
iii) W.H. Bleek

(9 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 5

Discuss Carl Meinhof's contributions to Bantu historical and comparative linguistics.

[25 marks]

Question 6

Discuss and critically evaluate Doke's classification of the Southern Bantu languages.

[25 marks]