

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION
DECEMBER 2016

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 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.**

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

SECTION A
PHONETICS

Answer Question one and any other question from this section

Question 1

- (a) In a spectrogram, there are formants that are not linguistically significant. Name these formants and also what these formants indicate. (3 marks)
- (b) What distinguishes High pitch from Low pitch in a spectrogram? (2 marks)
- (c) Which formant frequencies indicate the following, in vowels? (2 marks)
- i) Height
 - ii) Backness
- (d) What is the difference between front and back vowels in terms of formant frequencies? (4 marks)
- (e) What distinguishes the place of articulation in a spectrogram? Discuss, with illustrations from alveolar and velar consonants. (8 marks)
- (f) Compare and contrast the formant structures of the following linguistic concepts: (6 marks)
- i) nasal and laterals;
 - ii) stops and fricatives

[25 Marks]

Question 2

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

[k'] [w] [n] [ɬ] [b] [ɛ] [R] [N] (16 marks)

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

- b) Transcribe phonetically the siSwati items which follow:

- i) jova 'inject'
- ii) bala 'count'
- iii) tsenga 'buy'
- iv) phisa 'brew'
- v) luhleko 'laughter' (9 marks)
- vi) ngena 'enter'
- viii) inyama 'meat'

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- ix) yosa 'grill'
x) imfene 'baboon'

[25 Marks]

Question 3

- (a) 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) Velaric and glottalic airstream mechanism

- (b) Using the phonetic alphabet, transcribe the following English words as you pronounce them in casual speech:

- i) children
ii) accept
iii) coughs
iv) through (10 marks)
v) phonetics

[25 Marks]

SECTION B PHONOLOGY

Choose two questions from this section

Question 4

- (a) 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

- b) 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. (4 marks)

- c) Using distinctive features, formalize the following rules:
- i) A vowel is nasalized when it occurs before a nasal consonant
 - ii) A voiceless consonant becomes voiced between vowels
 - iii) Voiced stops are phonetically realized as voiceless segments in word-final position.
 - iv) A labial consonant is inserted between the vowel /o/ and /u/.
(12 marks)
- d) Using examples from any language, distinguish between a minimal pair and a near minimal pair.
(4 marks)

[25 Marks]

SECTION C
MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS
Choose one question from this section

Question 5

- a) Using distinctive features, formalize the following phonological rules:
- i) A voiced bilabial stop becomes a voiced bilabial fricative between vowels.
(4 marks)
 - ii) The vowel /i/ is deleted before the vowel /e/.
(3 marks)
 - iii) A vowel becomes nasalized before an alveolar nasal.
(3 marks)
- 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'

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- (i) Are the liquids [l] and [r] allophones of the same phoneme in Ganda or do they belong to separate phonemes? (1 mark)
- (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 marks)
- b) With the aid of examples from any language, define each of the following linguistic terms and concepts.
- (i) allomorph;
- (ii) accidental gaps; (9 marks)
- (iii) allophones in free variation

[25 Marks]

Question 6

- a) Discuss five ways in which a language can enlarge its vocabulary. (15 marks)
- b) Consider the data from Swahili provided below and do the tasks which follow:

beba	'carry on the back'
damu	'blood'
mbovu	'rotten'
giza	'darkness'
ngapi	'how many'
habari	'news'
ndege	'bird'
funga	'fasten'
mbaja	'bad'
wadogo	'little ones'
ndizi	'banana'

- (iii) List all the pairs of allophones found in the data. (3marks)
- (iv) State the distribution of the allophones you listed in (i) above. (3 marks)
- (v) Provide a phonemic transcription for the first **four** items presented in the data. (4marks)

[25 marks]

Question 7

- a) Indicate the phonetic symbols presented below:

-cons	-cons
+son	-son
-back	-cont
+high	-voiced
-round	+dorsal
	-del rel

- b) Consider the data below

sulat	'wri
sinulat	'was
susulat	'will
basag	'bre
binasag	'was
bumabasag	'is b
babasag	'will

Describe the process involved

- i) past tense;
 ii) present tense progressive;
 iii) future tense.
- d) The following words are all

cats
 wishes
 languages
 pegs
 taps
 books
 stitches
 terms
 pads

- (i) List the allophones.
 (ii) Which allophones occur in the presence of the morpheme.
 (iii) State in words the process involved.