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UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANTIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER - MAY 2017

B.A DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN LANGUAGE
11

COURSE CODE: AL310 (FULL TIME)

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL
2. ANSWER AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION
3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS SHOULD BE USED WHEREVER APPROPRIATE
4. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES
5. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.

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

SECTION A

THE NOUN

Answer at Least ONE Question from this Section

QUESTION 1

There is a controversy surrounding the singular prefix of class 1a /2a in siSwati.

- a) What is the bone of contention? Give illustrations (2 marks)
- b) Write down five nouns of this class with initial vowels (5 marks)
- c) Write down five nouns in this class with no initial vowels (5 marks)
- d) Explain how those who argue for a zero morpheme prefix explain the existence of the initial vowels in the nouns you gave under (b) above. (5 marks)
- e) Explain how those who argue for a latent vowel prefix explain the absence of initial vowels in the nouns you gave under (c) above. (5 marks)
- f) Using the evidence available to you, explain what you consider to be the real singular prefix of class 1a /2a. (3 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

- a) What is meant by the term action nominal? Give examples to illustrate your answer. (5 marks)
- b) With the aid of examples explain that the ambiguity that is exhibited by the action nominal comes from the fact that in siSwati the action nominal covers both the gerund and the infinitive. (5 marks)
- c) With the aid of examples, advance three arguments that prove that in siSwati the action nominal is not a noun. (10 marks)
- d) Using a tree structure diagram explain how the action nominal is derived (5 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

- a) Dlamini (1979) presents several meanings associated with the diminutive in siSwati. Using illustrative examples discuss any five of them pointing out clearly the differences between them. (10 marks)
- b) With the aid of examples from any language of your choice explain normal palatalization. (5 marks)
- c) Prove that the palatalization that occurs in the formation of diminutives in siSwati is not the normal palatalization. (5 marks)

- d) Discuss fully the palatalization that occurs in the formation of diminutives in siSwati. (5 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

Nouns can be derived from other nouns using prefixes and suffixes. Using appropriate examples from siSwati discuss fully;

- a) The derivation of proper nouns denoting names of women using three different preffixal formatives and explain whether such derivations are productive or not. (10 marks)
- b) The derivation of common nouns using two different suffixes and explain how productive those derivations are. (15 marks)

[25 MARKS]

SECTION B

THE PRONOUN AND THE QUALIFICATIVE

Answer at least ONE question from this Section

QUESTION 5

- a) Define an absolute pronoun (5 marks)
- b) Using appropriate examples explain that the stabilizer –na of the absolute pronoun is not part of the pronoun. (5 marks)
- c) Explain how the absolute pronoun in the first and second person is formed (5 marks)
- d) Give a table of the three morpheme system of the absolute pronoun from class 1 /2 to class 15 and explain how you have formed it. (10 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 6

- a) Give a concise list of the quantitative stems. (3 marks)
- b) Give the semantic difference between the quantitative stems that indicate completeness. Make sure you give appropriate examples. (6 mark)
- c) The quantitative pronoun using the stems –nkhe and –dvwa is formed by prefixing the absolute pronoun to the stems (except in the 1st, 2nd and class 1 /2 singular).

Explain clearly how each type of the quantitative pronoun is formed in the 1st person, 2nd person and class 1 /2 singular. (10 marks)

- d) The quantitative stems **-bili**, **-tsatfu**, **-ne** and **-hlanu** are also considered as adjectival stems. With the aid of examples explain the difference in both meaning and structure between these stems when used as quantitative from when used as adjectives. (6 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 7

- a) Using traditional grammar define the adjective. Give appropriate examples (5 marks)
- b) With reference to siSwati give a concise classification of adjectival stems. (5 marks)
- c) Give a table of the adjectival concord and explain how you have formed it. (15 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 8

- a) Using traditional grammar define the enumerative. (3 marks)
- b) Give the four enumerative stems and their gloss. (2 marks)
- c) Using appropriate examples discuss the semantic difference between the /-nye/ of the enumerative and the /-nye/ of the adjective. (4 marks)
- d) Give a table of the enumerative concord and explain how you have formed it. (16 marks)
- e) Sihlatiya SiSwati (1996) argues that the qualificative can be used attributively and predicatively. Explain how the enumerative is used both attributively and predicatively in siSwati. (5 marks)

[25 MARKS]

SECTION C

LINGUISTIC ARTICLES AND PAPERS

Answer at Least ONE Question from this Section

QUESTION 9

- a) Explain what is meant by compounding. (5 marks)
- b) Explain the two important things about siSwati compounds that was observed by Kunene. (5 marks)

- c) Using Sibanda (1995) discuss fully the following types of compounds;
- i) the synthetic compound,
 - ii) the apposition compounds,
 - iii) the izafet.

(15 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 10

Canonici (1989) argues that two subclasses, namely 3(a) and 9 (a) should be considered for Zulu nouns.

- a) What kind of nouns should be in these subclasses. Give appropriate examples.
(4 marks)
- b) Give the prefixes of these subclasses
(4 marks)
- c) How are these prefixes different from normal prefixes.
(2 marks)
- d) Advance arguments that prove the existence of each of these subclasses. Give three pieces of evidence for each subclass.
(15 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 11

- a) Give the prefixes of class 1 /2 singular and class 3/4 singular nouns in siSwati
(2 marks)
- b) With the aid of examples justify why these prefixes should not be lumped together into one class.
(3 marks)
- c) Using points from Givon.s article prove that class 1/ 2 is a later creation in Bantu.
(20 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 12

Using arguments from Herbert (1979) and any others that you can come up with prove that in Bantu languages the nasal is part of class 9/10 prefix rather than part of the stem.

[25 MARKS]