

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2017
B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS: WESTERN

COURSE CODE: IDE-AL311

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

SECTION A

CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

QUESTION 1

(a) With the aid of examples, describe the following types of language classification:

(i) Alphabetical classification (3)

(ii) Genealogical classification (4)

(b) Describe two (2) disadvantages of each of the classifications mentioned in (a) above. (8)

(c) Define the following linguistic terms:

(i) Proto language (2)

(ii) Monogenesis theory (2)

(iii) Polygenesis theory (2)

(iv) *Grammatikos* (2)

(v) *Grammatike* (2)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 2

Describe the contributions made by the following scholars to the scientific study of language:

(i) Protogoras (5)

(ii) Panini (5)

(iii) Dionysius Thrax (5)

(iv) Varro (10)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 3

Describe the following theories of language origin:

- (i) The sing-song theory (5)
- (ii) The poo-pooh theory (5)
- (iii) The divine source theory (5)
- (iv) Physiological adaptation (10)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 4

- (a) Discuss the contributions made by the Stoics to Descriptive linguistics. (10)
- (b) Discuss the views of Aristotle, Plato and the Stoics on the following;
 - (i) Analogy and anomaly controversy. (7)
 - (ii) The nature-convention controversy (8)

[25 marks]

SECTION B

CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

QUESTION 5

Describe briefly the contributions made by the following scholars in historical and comparative linguistics:

- (i) Gottfried Wilhelm Von Leibniz (5)
- (ii) J.J. Scaliger (5)
- (iii) Johann Von Herder (5)
- (iv) Dante (5)
- (v) Friedrich Schlegel (5)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 6

- (a)(i) According to Robins (1997:166), 'Wilhelm von Humboldt is best known in linguistics for popularizing a tripartite language typology, isolating, agglutinative, and flexional, according to the predominant structure of the word as a grammatical unit.' With the aid of examples from any language of your choice, discuss these types. (15)
- (b) (i) Describe Grimm's law. (6)
- (ii) Explain how Verner's law supplemented Grimm's law. (4)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 7

- (a) Discuss how Franz Bopp contributed towards the development of comparative linguistics. (10)
- (b) (i) Explain the four (4) fundamental principles used in modern comparative and historical linguistics which were formulated by Rasmus Kristian Rask. (10)
- (ii) What are cognates and how are they used in comparative and historical linguistics? (5)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 8

Discuss critically Noam Chomsky's contribution to generative grammar.

[25 marks]