

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: December 2017

B.A. DEGREE

**TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE
LINGUISTICS: INDO-EUROPEAN**

COURSE NUMBER: ALL303

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.**

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SECTION A

Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 1

Define five (5) of the following terms. Give one (1) example of each term that you have defined from any Indo-European language.

1. Idiolect
2. Speech community
3. Dialect
4. Geographical variation
5. Class variation
6. Occupational variation

[25 marks]

Question 2

Define Grimm's Law. Name the language family and the proto-language whose relationship is described by Grimm's Law. State each sound change of Grimm's Law. State three (3) generalizations that may be made about these sound changes.

[25 marks]

Question 3

Define the terms borrowed vocabulary and inherited vocabulary. What is the origin of the word *father* in Modern English? What is the origin of the word *paternal* in Modern English? What does the relationship between the words *father* and *paternal* show about the relationship between borrowed and inherited vocabulary?

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 4

List eleven (11) sub-branches of the Indo-European language family. For each sub-branch, give one (1) attested language that belongs to it. Which two (2) branches are currently considered to be extinct? [25 marks]

Question 5

What is the Comparative Method? What does it mean to say that two languages are genetically related? What are systematic sound correspondences? Why are systematic sound correspondences essential for establishing genetic relatedness? [25 marks]

Question 6

Define convergence. Explain why the Balkan Sprachbund is an example of convergence in terms of the definition you give. List five (5) languages from different sub-branches of the Indo-European language family that belong to the Balkan Sprachbund. Give two (2) examples of linguistic characteristics from the Balkan Sprachbund that illustrate convergence. [25 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER