

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2018
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) Name and describe three (3) types of language classification. (15)
- (b) Describe two (2) disadvantages of one of the classifications you mentioned in (a) above. Provide examples to support your answer. (10)
- [25]

QUESTION 2

- (a) Explain what triggered the interest in phonetics by early Indian scholars. (5)
- (b) Name the approach employed by the Alexandrian scholars to the study of language. What were the weaknesses of their approach? (5)
- (c) Distinguish between the monogenesis theory and the polygenesis theory of language origin. (6)
- (d) (i) Name three types of predicates that were attested by the Stoics in the Greek verbal system. (3)
- (ii) The Stoics were mainly concerned with the study of etymology at lexical level. Define the term etymology. (2)
- (iii) State the parts of speech that were recognised by Stoics. (4)
- [25]

QUESTION 3

- Discuss the contributions made by Varro to linguistic science. [25]

QUESTION 4

- (a) Describe Dante's major contributions to linguistic science (6)
 - (b) Discuss Sir William Jones' major contributions to historical and comparative linguistics. (10)
 - (c) Describe major contributions by Johann von Herder to the development of linguistic science. (5)
 - (d) Distinguish between prescriptive and descriptive grammar. (4)
- [25]

SECTION B

CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

QUESTION 5

Discuss the contributions made by W. von Humboldt to the development of linguistics. [25]

QUESTION 6

(a) Describe Edward Sapir's major contributions to the development of American structuralism. (4)

(b) Trubetzkoy classified 'distinctive opposition'. With the aid of examples, describe the following types of oppositions;

(i) Bilateral and multilateral oppositions (6)

(ii) Proportional and isolated oppositions (6)

(iii) Privative, gradual and equipollent oppositions (9)

[25]

QUESTION 7

Discuss Ferdinand de Saussure's major contributions to structuralism. [25]

QUESTION 8

(a) Discuss August W. Schlegel's contribution to comparative linguistics. (15)

(b) Describe the contributions made by Friedrich Schlegel to comparative and historical linguistics. (10)

[25]