

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER
DECEMBER 2018

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 FOR THIS SECTION

QUESTION 1

(a) In typological classification languages may be classified based on phonological systems namely; vowel systems, consonant systems and prosodic features. With illustrations, discuss these phonological systems. (22)

(b) Describe one weakness of the classification mentioned in (a) above. (3)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 2

(a) (i) State the Alexandrian scholars' position on the analogy-anomaly debate. (2)

(ii) Explain one weakness of Alexandrian scholars. (3)

(b) Describe Varro's contribution to morphology. (6)

(c) Discuss the contributions made by Varro and Priscian to linguistics science, pay attention on their treatment of grammatical categories. (14)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 3

(a) Describe Plato's contribution in phonetics. (5)

(b) Priscian set up eight word classes for Latin. Outline these word classes. (8)

(c) Discuss contributions made by the Dionysius Thrax to linguistic science. (12)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 4

Discuss the Stoics' contributions to the development of linguistics. [25 marks]

SECTION B

CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

QUESTION 5

- (a) Discuss the major contribution(s) made by Von Humboldt to the development of historical and comparative linguistics. (10)
- (b) With the aid of examples, describe Verner's Law. (5)
- (c) Discuss and critically evaluate August Schleicher's theory of language development. (10)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 6

- (a) Define Grimm's Law and illustrate your answer with appropriate examples that demonstrate how the law works? (10)
- (b) Identify the key contributions made by the following scholars to the development of historical and comparative linguistics:
 - (i) Friedrich Schlegel (5)
 - (ii) Edward Sapir (5)
 - (iii) Franz Bopp (5)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 7

- (a) August W. Schlegel typologically classified languages based on word structure namely isolating, affixing and inflecting. With illustrations from any language of your choice, discuss these types. (12)
- (b) Describe and evaluate the *neogrammarian* hypothesis. (5)
- (c) Describe the four (4) fundamental principles used in modern comparative and historical linguistics which were formulated by Rasmus Kristian Rask. (8)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 8

Discuss critically Noam Chomsky's contribution to generative grammar.

[25 marks]