

**UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2019**  
**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

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

- (i) Early Indian scholars prior to Panini (5)
- (ii) Protogoras (5)
- (iii) Panini (5)
- (iv) Alexandrian scholars (5)
- (v) W. Holder (5)

[25 marks]

#### QUESTION 2

(a) Describe the following theories of language origin:

- (i) The sing-song theory (3)
- (ii) The poo-poo theory (3)
- (iii) The divine source theory (3)
- (vi) The oral-gesture source (3)
- (v) The ding-dong theory (3)

(b) State the three properties of letters which were recognised by Priscian. (3)

(c) Name and describe the theory which was originated by Gottfried Wilhelm Von Leibniz. (4)

(d) What is a Proto language? (3)

[25 marks]

### **QUESTION 3**

- (a) What is a dialect? (2)
- (b) Name three (3) types of gender in Greek that were established by Protagoras. (3)
- (c) (i) Describe genetic classification. (5)
- (ii) Why is genetic classification useful in historical and comparative linguistics? (3)
- (d) Discuss three (3) problems associated with genetic classification. (12)

[25 marks]

### **QUESTION 4**

- (a) With illustrations from a language of your choice, discuss how languages are classified typologically based of word order systems. (10)
- (b) Define the following linguistic terms:
- (i) Etymology (3)
- (ii) Analogy (3)
- (iii) Anomaly (3)
- (iv) *Grammatikos* (3)
- (c) Name the three (3) European language families recognised by Dante. (3)

[25 marks]

## SECTION B

CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

### QUESTION 5

- (a) Define the following terms as used by Chomsky:
- (i) Kernel sentence (4)
  - (ii) Competence (3)
  - (iii) Performance (3)
- (b) Describe linguistic structuralism. (5)
- (c) Discuss Bloomfield's contributions to the study of language. (10)

[25 marks]

### QUESTION 6

- (a) State two linguistic misconceptions which J.J. Scaliger discarded. (4)
- (b) Describe how Friedrich Schlegel classified languages. (6)
- (c) Briefly distinguish between synchronic and diachronic study of language. (4)
- (d) Describe the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. (5)
- (e) Describe Sir William Jones contributions to the development of historical and comparative linguistics. (6)

[25 marks]

### QUESTION 7

- (a) Trubetzkoy (1939) 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)

(b) Describe Roman Jakobson's phonetic oppositions. (5)

[25 marks]

**QUESTION 8**

Discuss the contributions made by Ferdinand De Saussure to European comparative linguistic studies. [25 marks]