UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
RESIT EXAMINATION PAPER: JANUARY 2019
B. A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORICAL   AND   COMPARATIVE   BANTU
                                  LINGUISTICS

COURSE NUMBER: ALL407

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1.   ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.

                    2.   CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION

                    3.   LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISM
                           SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

                    4.   ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

SECTION A
LEXICOSTATISTICS AND GLOTTOCHRONOLOGY

Answer Question 1

Question 1

Examine the shared cognate percentage figures for the following ten hypothetical languages:

A

89   B

88   87   C

28   30   29   D

26   34   30   86   E

28   27   32   56   54   F

27   29   31   57   53   62   G

30   33   36   54   56   63   64   H

22   28   27   53   51   66   65   87   I

31   24   21   56   54   67   68   86   89   J

With reference to the above data,

(i)   Find out which languages are most closely related to each other and group them accordingly.   (3 marks)

(ii)   Work out the shared cognate percentages between the different groups, to find the second level of linguistic relationship.   (8 marks)

(iii)   Estimate according to glottochronology the period of time the following languages may have separated from each other.

     Language D from language E
     Language C from language I   (9 marks)
     Language D from language H

Note: Use the formula below to work out the time depth:

$$t = \frac{\log C}{2 \log r}$$

The value of **r** in this formula is set at **0.805**

(b) Briefly explain what constitutes the basic or core vocabulary of a language.

(5 marks)

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Choose *one* question from this section

Question 2

(a) Study the Lamba data given below and answer the questions that follow:

Underlying representation	Surface representation	
1. iN-βeβa	imbeβa	"mouse"
iN-βaŋgo	imaŋgo	"bonds"
2. iN-loβo	indoβo	"hook"
iN-lembo	inembo	"tattoos"

i) Account for the difference in the stem-initial segment in [imbeβa] and /iN-βeβa/ in (1) and between [indoβo] and / iN-loβo / in (2) above.

(4 marks)

ii) Account for the stem-initial segment in [imbeβa] and / imaŋgo / in (1) and between [indoβo] and /inembo/ in (2) above.

(6 marks)

iii) Name the historical rule responsible for the variations you accounted for in (1) and (2) above.

(2 marks)

b) With the aid of one example each from any Bantu language, briefly explain the following terms:

    i) sub-class
    ii) verbaliser
    iii) stabiliser
    iv) derivative radical

(8 marks)

c) With examples from nouns in siSwati, discuss the difference between partial reduplication and complete reduplication.   (5 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 3

With the aid of examples from relevant Bantu languages, discuss the operation of each of the following Laws:

a)   Dahl's Law
b)   Meinhof's Law
c)   Kwanyama Law

[25 marks]

SECTION C

*Choose **one** question from this section*

Question 4

a)   Study the Zulu data provided below, and do the tasks which follow:

-bon-	'see'	-bonw-	'be seen'
-thand-	'love'	-thandw-	'be loved'
-bong-	'praise'	-bongw-	'be praised'
-ph-	'give-	-phiw-	'be given'
-dl-	'eat'	-dliw-	'be eaten'
-mb-	'dig'	-mbiw-	'be dug'

i)   Name the verbal-extension found in the data above.   (2 marks)
ii)   List the allomorphs of this extension in Zulu, and describe the distribution of the allomorphs on the basis of these data above.   (3 marks)

b)   Compare the Zulu data provided in (c) above with those given below, and do the task which follows:

-tap-	'gather'	-tatshw-	'be gathered'
-boph-	'tie'	-boshw-	'be tied'
-hluph-	'tease'	-hlushw-	'be teased'
-thum-	'send'	-thunyw-	'be sent'
-lob-	'write'	-lotshw-	'be written-

Account for the morphophonemic changes affecting the final consonant of the base radical in the data above   (5 marks)

c)   With illustrations from any Bantu language, discuss any *five* characteristics that are proposed by Guthrie for identifying languages as belonging to the Bantu family.   (15 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 5

a)   Consider the following data from four Bantu languages and do the tasks that follow.

SiSwati	IsiZulu	S.Sesotho	Bemba	
umfati	umfazi	mʊsadi	umukaʃi	'woman/wife'
umuti	umuzi	mʊtsɪ	umuʃi	'village/home'
emanti	amanzi	metsi	ameʃi	'water'
imbuti	imbuzi	podi	imbuʃi	'goat'
tinkʰuni	izinkuni	dibeso	inkuni	'firewood'

i)   Which of the four languages whose data appear above do you consider to share cognates, if any? Justify your claim.   (3 marks)

ii)   In the languages you consider to share cognate forms, identify and list the consonant correspondences found in the nominal stems. Do not include identical sets.   (3 marks)

iii) For each set of consonant correspondences you identified in (b(ii)) above, reconstruct the proto-consonant and state the strategy you used to arrive at the proto-consonant.   (3 marks)

iv)   State the phonological processes which took place during the evolution of the following forms from the Proto-language:

1.   The Bemba stem [umukaʃi] 'woman/wife'.
2.   The IsiZulu stem [imbuzi] 'goat'
3.   The siSwati stem [tinkʰuni] 'firewood'   (6 marks)

b)   With the use of distinctive features, formalize the diachronic phonological rules you stated in (iv).   (10 marks)

[25 marks]

SECTION D

Choose <u>one</u> question from this section

Question 6

a) Consider the data from Lamba, a Bantu language, and answer he questions which follow:

-cit-	'do'	-citil-	'do for'
-pat-	'scold'	-patil-	'scold for'
-kunt-	'shake'	-kuntil-	'shake for'
-cet-	'spy'	-cetel-	'spy for'
-sonk-	'pay tax'	-sonkel-	'pay tax for'
-lim-	'cultivate'	-limin-	'cultivate for'
-kan-	'deny'	-kanin-	'deny for'
-pum-	'beat'	-pumin-	'beat for'
-fweny-	'scratch'	-fwenyen-	'scratch for'
-pon-	'fall'	-ponen-	'fall for'

i) Name the verbal extension found in the data above.   (2 marks)
ii) List the allomorphs of this extension in Lamba, and describe the distribution of the allomorphs.   (8 marks)

b) Compare the Lamba data provided in (a) above with those given below:

-alul-	'change'	-alwil-	'change for'
-cofol-	'bend'	-cofwel-	'bend for'
-kamun-	'tear'	-kamwin-	'tear for'
-konon-	'break'	-konwen-	'break for'

Then explain how the extension you mentioned in (a (i)) above operates in these items.
          (5 marks)

c) With illustrations from Meinhof's Ur-Bantu and siSwati vowel systems, discuss the *7 > 5 vowel shift.   (10 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 7

Consider the data from Tshivenda a Bantu language and answer the question which follows:

Tshivenda

vul-a	vul^w-a	vul-iw-a	'be opened'
ɸaʈ-a	ɸaʈ^w-a	ɸaʈ-iw-a	'be built'
ɸ-a		ɸ-iw-a	'be given'
k-a		k-iw-a	'be picked'
tap'-a	tap^y-a	tap'-iw-a	'be flicked'
k^{h}op^h-a	k^{h}op^{hy}-a	k^{h}op^h-iw-a	'be broken off'

a) Discuss, with relevant examples, the formation of the passive in siSwati and then compare and contrast it with the formation of the passive in Tshivenda as exemplified in the above data.

(15 marks)

b) The difference between partial reduplication and complete reduplication is rather unclear and relative. Using examples from verbs in siSwati and/or any other relevant Bantu language(s), discuss the authenticity of this statement. (10 marks)

[25 marks]