

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER: DECEMBER 2018
B. A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS: WESTERN

COURSE NUMBER: AL412/IDE-AL412

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
LANGUAGE CHANGE**

Choose one question from this section

Question 1

- a) Distinguish between the following types of sound change. Give for each argument an example from any language:
- i) Rhotacism and trilling;
 - ii) epenthesis and metathesis;
 - iii) aphaeresis and prothesis; (20 marks)
 - iv) phonetic unpacking and diphthongisation;
 - v) frication and affrication.
- b) By making use of examples, describe the following:
- i) Semantic broadening; (2 marks)
 - ii) Semantic shift. (3 marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 2

- a) With the aid of illustrations from any language(s), discuss the relationship between linguistic typology and language universals. [6 marks]
- b) Consider the data below from a Proto language and Lenakel and do the tasks which follow:

Proto Language

*namatana

Lenakel

nimrin

Task: Name the phonological processes, in their order, which took place in the derivation of the Lenakel forms, and briefly account for the order you suggest.

[10 marks]

- c) The scope of historical linguistics can be viewed from both a practical point and from a theoretical perspective. Discuss. (6 marks)
- d) Distinguish between Historical linguistics and History of linguistics. Support your argument with examples. (3 marks)

[25 Marks]

SECTION B
COMPARATIVE RECONSTRUCTION
Choose one question from this section

Question 3

- a) Describe the two (2) strategies used in the reconstruction of proto sounds. (4 marks)
- b) Distinguish between the methods of internal reconstruction and that of comparative reconstruction. (3 marks)
- c) With the use of examples, distinguish between a proto language and an attested parent language. (5 marks)
- d) When listing the sound correspondences between languages that you are comparing, when might you use;
 - i) A zero morpheme (4 marks)
 - ii) A dash
- e) When reconstructing proto sounds, the phonemic inventory of the proto language being reconstructed should be taken into consideration. With illustrations, support the authenticity of this statement. (5 marks)
- f) What is the difference between fortition and lenition? (4 marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 4

Consider the data below from three Middle-Indic languages and answer the questions which follow:

Magadhi Prakrit	Pali	Maharastri Prakrit	
1. abala	apara	avara	'other'
2. diba	*dipa	diva	'lamp'
3. hasta	hatt ^h a	hatt ^h a	'hand'
4. loga	loka	loa	'world'
5. nala	rara	nara	'man'
6. nisp ^h ala	nipp ^h ala	nipp ^h ala	'fruitless'
7. pask ^h aladi	pakk ^h alati	pakk ^h alai	'he stumbles'
8. pida	pita	pia	'father'
9. puspa	pupp ^h a	pupp ^h a	'flower'

- a) Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the nine items provided in the data. (9 marks)

- b) Wherever a proto-word has changed, name the daughter language and state the phonological process which took place during the development of the daughter language from proto-Middle Indic. (9 marks)
- c) Of the three languages, which do you consider to be
i) the most conservative;
ii) the most innovative. (5 marks)
Give reasons for your opinion.
- d) Given that the Maharastri Prakrit word for 'dry' is [sukk^ha], what would be its cognate form in
i) Pali;
ii) Magadhi Prakrit? (2 marks)

[25 Marks]

SECTION C
INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION
Choose one question from this section

Question 5

- a) Consider the data provided below from Mbabaram, a language spoken in North Queensland Australia:

*wula	→	lo	'die'
*ɲali	→	li	'we'
*guju	→	ju	'fish'
*guw _ɔ	→	wo	'west'
*bamba	→	mba	'belly'
*wuna	→	no	'lie down'
*diba	→	be	'liver'
*gumbi	→	mbi	'penis'
*naga	→	ga	'east'
*ɲulu	→	lu	'he'

- i) Some word-final /a/ became [e], some became [o], and some remained unchanged. What were the conditioning factors? (6 marks)

ii) Initial syllables were lost. Did this change take place before or after the changes affecting the final /a/? Explain with relevant examples from the data. (4 marks)

b) When might you want to use the method of internal reconstruction instead of the comparative method? (6 marks)

c) Consider the data below from Proto-Slavic and Bulgarian and do the tasks which follow:

Proto-Slavic	Bulgarian
*gladuka	glatkə
*blizuka	bliskə
*lovuka	lofkə

i) Specify the changes between Proto-Slavic and Bulgarian. (3 marks)

ii) Name the phonological processes, in their order, which took place in the derivation of the Bulgarian forms, and briefly account for the order you suggest. (6 marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 6

Examine the data below from Bahasa Indonesia in which the active and passive verb forms are presented and do the tasks which follow:

Active	Passive	
məmbuka	dibuka	‘open’
məndapat	didapat	‘get’
məŋjelaskan	dijelaskan	‘explain’
məŋgosok	digosok	‘rub’
məmərlukan	dipərlukan	‘need’
mənanam	ditanam	‘plant’
məjaran	dikaran	‘compose’
məjurus	diurus	‘arrange’
məneja	dieja	‘spell’
məjambil	diambil	‘take’
məjikat	diikat	‘tie’
məjerikan	dijerikan	‘give a fright’
məjhapuskan	dihapuskan	‘wipe’

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- (i) Use the internal method of reconstruction to suggest what the original active and passive prefixes might have been. [2 Marks]
- (ii) Identify those words whose prefixes in the active form have undergone changes and give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms, to show how they have changed. [14 Marks]
- (iii) Identify the words that have retained their original forms of the active prefix and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. [9 Marks]

[25 marks]

SECTION D MISCELENEOUS *Choose one question from this section*

Question 7

- a) What do you think is the importance to historical linguistics of the fact that Sanskrit, Latin, and Greek were written languages? Would we have been able to make the same advances if they were not? (5 marks)
- b) How does typology contribute to our understanding of language change? (4 marks)
- c) Does a proto-language die out and then get replaced by its daughter languages? What, for example, is the nature of the relationship between Latin and Italian? (6 marks)
- d) With illustrations from any language, discuss the following linguistic terms and concepts:
 - i) Implicational universals; (2 marks)
 - ii) Total progressive assimilation; (2 marks)
 - iii) Compensatory lengthening (2 marks)
 - iv) Folk etymology (4 marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 8

- a) "There is no precise figure for the number of languages spoken in the world today". Provide evidence to support the authenticity of this statement along with relevant examples. (10 marks)

- b) Study the data provided below from four languages of the Tupi-Guarani family. Then do the tasks which follow:

GUARANI	TUPINAMBA	SIRIONO	GUARAYO	
kitʃi	kiti	kisi	kitʃi	'cut'
tʃi	tiŋ	sī	tʃi	'white'
meʔe	meʔeŋ	meē	meē	'give'
kwa	pwar	kwa	kwa	'tie'
ki	kib	ki	ki	'louse'
kiʔa	kiʔa	kia	kia	'dirty'

- i) Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the six items provided in the data. (3 marks)
- ii) Wherever a proto-word has changed, name the daughter language and state the phonological process which took place during the development of the daughter language from Proto-Tupi-Guarani. (6 marks)
- iii) Using distinctive features, formalize any **two** phonological processes that you mentioned in (ii) above. (6 marks)

[25 Marks]