

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER – MAY 2019

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE BANTU
LINGUISTICS

COURSE CODE: AL413 / IDE – AL413 (MAIN)

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS.
2. START EACH QUESTION ON A FRESH PAGE.
3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS SHOULD BE USED WHEREVER APPROPRIATE.
4. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED

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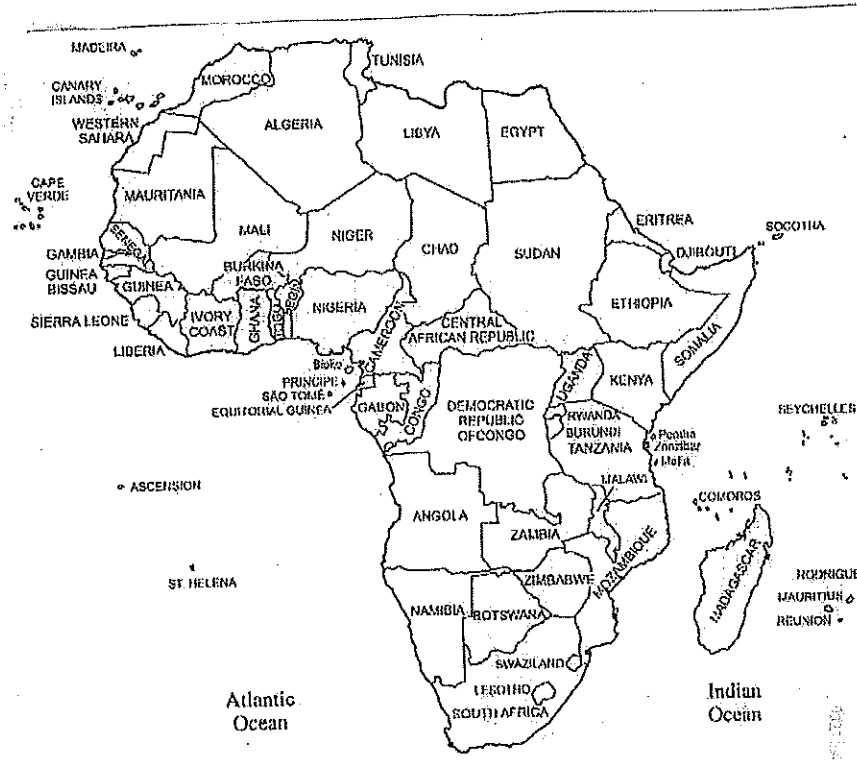
QUESTION 1

- (a) Give three (3) reasons why early researchers on Bantu languages were intensely preoccupied with the question of language classification. (3)
- (b) Mention two (2) universal defining features of human articulated language relevant to Historical and Comparative Linguistics and discuss their relevance to the subject. (10)
- (c) All living languages are continually changing with time. Comment on any two (2) lexical changes and two (2) semantic changes that have occurred in Siswati. (12)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 2

- (a) Comment on any five (5) characteristic of Bantu languages presented by Guthrie. (15)
- (b) What is the parent language for Siswati and IsiXhosa? (1)
- (c) Supply four (4) language families of Africa, presented by Webb and Kembo-Sure. (4)
- (d) Using the map below, indicate where Bantu languages originate and show how they spread towards the eastern part of the continent based on the views of contemporary scholars (Webb and Kembo-Sure). (5)



[25 marks]

QUESTION 3

Read the contents of the two sections carefully and answer the questions that follow. For both (a) and (b), **provide the words** in which the changes are observed and **underline the relevant sounds**.

Sesotho in 1854	Sesotho in 2019
<p>KI MOLAO OA YOALA YOA MAKHUOA Molao oona o re: Yoala ba Makhuoa bo ne bo sa tseyoe ki Matie, leha e le Motlomi, le bagolu ba sechaba, ge isa go Bomonageng.</p> <p>'Me Mokachane o golile a inoella lebese fela le metsi. Ki ka baka la gobane moatloleli a bokhabane ga a lukeloe ki se tagang.</p> <p>Yoala ki khang, ki phosiso ea litaba; ga bo gagise motse; ba Makhuoa yona ki mollo. Go tseyoe ki gona gobane ga bo na rekoa sechabeng sena sa Basutu; 'me motu e k aba mang le mang, leha e le e mochu, leha e le lekhuoa a bo thlisang a reka ka yona gare ga sechaba, oa ipea kotsi ea gobane bo chulloefatse e be ki go fela.</p> <p>Molao oona oa ngoloa ka Sesutu le ka Sekhuoa; oa gatisoa, o manegoe pepeneneng sechabeng sa Basutu.</p> <p>'Mei oa molao oona ki 'na Moshesh, Ki na le bagolu ba sechaba. Thaba Bosigo, 8 Purungoana, 1854</p>	<p>KE MOLAO OA JOALA BA MAKHOOA Molao ona o re: Joala ba Makhooa bo ne bo sa tsejoe ke Matie, leha e le Mohlomi, le baholo ba sechaba, ho isa ho Bo-Monaheng.</p> <p>'Me Mokhachane o holile a inoella lebese feela le metsi. Ke ka baka la hobane monghali ea khabane ha a lokeloe ke se tahang.</p> <p>Joala ke khang, ke phosiso ea litaba; ha bo hahe motse; ba Makhooa bona ke mollo. Ho tsejoe ke hona hobane ha bo na rekoa sechabeng sena sa Basotho; 'me motho e ka ba mang le mang, leha e le e motšo, leha e le lekhooa ea bo tlising a bo rekisa kahara sechaba, o ipea kotsing hobane bo tla tšolloa fatše e be ke ho fela ha bona.</p> <p>Molao ona oa ngoloa ka Sesotho le ka Sekhooa; oa hatisoa, o manehoe pepeneneng sechabeng sa Basotho.</p> <p>'Mei oa molao ona ke 'na Moshoeshoe, ke na le baholo ba sechaba. Thaba-Bosiu, 8 Pulungoane, 1854.</p>

- (a) Identify five (5) instances of consonant changes that have occurred in Sesotho. (10)
- (b) Identify the following instances of vowel changes:
- (i) One instance of vowel length (1)
 - (ii) One instance of vowel deletion (1)
 - (iii) Two instances of vowel change (4)
- (c) Study data provided below and answer the questions that follow.

Proto-Bantu	Silozi	Sesotho
luma	luma	Loma

yava	aba	aba
kana	hana	hana
kulu	hulu	holo
takuna	takuna	hlafuna
pa	fa	fa
livala	liβala	lebala
lipa	lifa	lefa
tatu	lalu	raro
yila	nzila	tsela

- (i) Provide five (5) examples which show consonant change between Proto-Bantu and Sesotho. (5)
- (ii) Supply two (2) examples which indicate consonant change between Silozi and Sesotho. (2)
- (iii) Give two (2) examples which show vowel change between Sesotho and Silozi. (2)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 4

	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE
IsiZulu	-nye	-bili	-thathu	-ne	-hlanu
CiCewa	-modzi	-wili	-tatu	-nai	-sanu
Sepedi	tee	-pedi	-tharo	-nne	-hlano
TshiVenda	-thihi	-vhili	-raru	-na	-thanu
CiShona	-mwe	-wili	-tatu	-ina	-shanu
IsiXhosa	-nye	-bini	-thathu	-ne	-hlanu
XiTsonga	-nwe	Mbirhi	nharhu	-ne	ntlhanu
SiSwati	-nye	-bili	-tsatfu	-ne	-hlanu
CiTumbuka	-moza	-wili	-tatu	-nai	-nkhonde
CiNsenga	-mo	-wili	-tatu	-ne	-sano
IciBemba	-mo	-bili	-tatu	-ne	-sano
LuGanda	-mu	-bili	-satu	-na	-taano

- (a) For each number presented in the Table above, identify the word root which seems to be the possible proto-form and explain why you think so. (15)
- (b) Using the Table above, detect two (2) word roots (from different languages) which are difficult to tell that they originated from the same etymon. (4)
- (c) Make a distinction between typological and genetic classifications. (5)
- (d) Mention any daughter of Niger-Congo branch. (1)

[25 marks]

