

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
RESIT EXAMINATION PAPER
JANUARY 2020

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									
70	B								
15	13	C							
41	39	11	D						
41	38	10	68	E					
37	35	12	69	67	F				
39	37	11	59	55	52	G			
32	35	38	56	58	35	36	H		
24	30	29	55	53	48	59	69	I	
33	26	23	58	56	49	60	68	71	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) Show the relationship of these languages in a family tree diagram. (5 marks)
- (iv) Estimate according to glottochronology the period of time the following languages may have separated from each other:
 1. Language H from language J
 2. Language B from language G
 3. Language C from language F
 (9 marks)

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

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Choose one question from this section

Question 2

Malcolm Guthrie proposed **seven** criteria to be used in the identification of languages as belonging to the Bantu family. Discuss and critically evaluate these criteria.

[25 marks]

Question 3

- a) With the aid of examples from Ganda and Lamba, discuss the similarities and differences in the operation of Meinhof's Law in the two languages.
(8 marks)
- b) With the aid of examples from relevant Bantu languages, discuss the similarities and differences between Meinhof's Law and Kwanyama Law.
(8 marks)
- c) With the aid of examples from Gikuyu and Nyamwezi, discuss the operation of Dahl's Law.
(9 marks)

[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 (6 marks)

- c) Discuss **two** reasons why languages cannot be grouped according to the number of consonants. (6 marks)
- d) Greenberg based his classification of African languages according to three principles. Discuss any **two** of these principles. (8 marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 5

- a) Study the data provided below from six Bantu languages. Then do the tasks which follow:

Language	Singular	Plural	
Gisu	ligi	gamagi	'egg(s)'
Kongo	diki	meki	'egg(s)'
Rimi	ige	mage	'egg(s)'
S. Sotho	lihi	mahi	'egg(s)'
Zambian Tonga	iji	maji	'egg(s)'
Tswana	lii	mai	'egg(s)'

According to Guthrie (1970), the Proto-Bantu stem for 'egg' is /-gi/. With the use of distinctive features, formalize the diachronic phonological rules which applied to the proto-Bantu stem to evolve the following:

- i) the Kongo stem; (9 marks)
- ii) the Rimi stem; and
- iii) the Tswana stem.
- b) Discuss **two** types of enumerative prefixes. Give for each type, one example from any relevant Bantu language. (4 marks)
- c) With illustrations from any relevant Bantu languages compare and contrast Vowel harmony and Nasal harmony (6 marks)
- d) Discuss **three** types of adjectival prefixes. Give for each type, one example from any relevant Bantu language. (6 marks)

[25 Marks]

SECTION D

Choose one question from this section

Question 6

- a) With illustrations from siSwati, discuss any **five** strategies used to resolve vowel hiatus (15 marks)
- b) With the aid of one example each from any Bantu language, briefly explain the following terms:
- i) Nominaliser (2 marks)
 - ii) derivative radical (3 marks)
- c) What is the difference between the Comparative method and the method of Internal reconstruction? (5 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 7

- a) List the Proto-Bantu nominal prefixes 19-23 and for each class show how the Proto-Bantu prefix is reflected in any **one** modern day Bantu language. (10 marks)
- b) Wherever the Proto-Bantu prefix has changed in a modern Bantu language illustrated in (a) above, state the phonological process which occurred during the development of the modern Bantu language. (5 marks)
- c) With illustrations from any Bantu language, distinguish between the following linguistic concepts:
- i) open and close vowels; (4 marks)
 - ii) tone spread and tonal shift; (6 marks)

[25 marks]