

**UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JANUARY 2020**

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS: WESTERN

COURSE NUMBER: 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 questions from this section

Question 1

With examples from any language, explain the following linguistic terms and concepts:

- i) Fully tonal languages; and (3 Marks)
- ii) Implicational universal (4 Marks)
- b) With examples, discuss **three** disadvantages of a Genealogical classification of languages. (9 Marks)
- c) Word order patterns in languages are derived from simple declarative sentences. With **three** examples, briefly discuss problems that would be encountered if any type of sentence would be used to suggest the word order pattern of English. (9 Marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 2

- a) Dante attributed the development of different languages to “the passage of time and the geographical dispersion of speakers of a given language”. Discuss. (10 Marks)
- b) Briefly distinguish the terms *GENEALOGICAL* and *TYPOLOGICAL* classification of languages. (5 Marks)
- c) Panini exercised both consistency and economy in his generative morphology of Sanskrit. With illustrations from English briefly discuss **two** examples of economy as used in contemporary linguistics. (5 Marks)
- a) Briefly distinguish the monogenesis theory and the polygenesis theory of language origin. (5 Marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 3

- a) Critically evaluate the contributions made by Plato, Aristotle and the Stoics to the Nature-Convention debate. (15 Marks)
- b) It is difficult to find a language that fits discreetly into one morphological system. With examples, discuss how English and siSwati could each fit into both isolating and agglutinating systems. (6 Marks)

- c) Briefly distinguish the terms proto-language and an attested parent language. Support your argument with examples. (4 Marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 4

Discuss the role played by the Romans in the development of intellectual, political, cultural, and moral civilisation during the Greco-Roman era.

[25 Marks]

SECTION B

Choose two questions from this section

Question 5

Discuss and critically evaluate Grimm's Law then evaluate how Verner's Law complemented it.

[25 Marks]

Question 6

- a) Ferdinand de Saussure made a distinction between a synchronic study of language and a diachronic one. Compare and contrast these two branches of the study of language. Support your argument with examples. (10 Marks)
- b) Briefly discuss paradigmatically related elements in English at each of the following levels of analysis:

- i) phonological level;
- ii) lexical level; and
- iii) grammatical level

(15 Marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 7

Different scholars contributed to the development of American structuralism. Discuss the contributions made by the following scholars to this type of linguistics:

- i) Franz Boas
- ii) Edward Sapir
- iii) Leonard Bloomfield

[25 Marks]

Question 8

- a) Critically evaluate the Finite-State grammar as proposed by Chomsky (1957) in his *Syntactic Structures* (10 Marks)
- b) What is a kernel sentence? (3 Marks)
- c) Chomsky introduced the third model of grammatical analysis as an improvement of the Phrase Structure Grammar.
- i) What is the name of this model? (2 Marks)
- ii) Discussing **two** examples, show how the model you mentioned in (i) was a step forward. (10 Marks)

[25 Marks]