

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER – AUGUST 2020
B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE BANTU
LINGUISTICS

COURSE CODE: IDE AL413

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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THE INVIGILATOR

QUESTION 1

Write brief notes on the following:

- (a) Language change.
- (b) Bantu
- (c) Bleek
- (d) Truncation
- (e) Proto-forms

[25 marks]

QUESTION 2

- (a) Historical and Comparative Bantu Linguists were totally preoccupied with the question of language classification. Give three (3) things that they were investigating. (3)
- (b) Displacement and structuralism are some of the features of human articulated language which enabled Historical and Comparative Bantu Linguists to establish the proto-forms. Discuss the contribution of these features to Historical and Comparative Bantu Linguistics. (10)
- (c) Namibia, South Africa and Zambia are member countries of SADC in which Bantu languages are spoken. Each of the countries cited is multilingual. Choose one country and:
 - (i) Indicate three (3) Bantu languages spoken in the country you have chosen;
 - (ii) Indicate each language's geographical distribution; and
 - (iii) Indicate how Guthrie classified each language you have mentioned in his *Comparative Bantu*. To this end, indicate the zone and group to which each language belongs.

(12)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 3

1. With the help of a family tree diagram, represent the relationship of the languages in (i) and (ii) below:

(i)

- The South Eastern Zone
- The Benue Congo Branch
- The Bantu sub-family
- The Niger-Congo Family
- Bantoid

(ii) Languages

- Siswati

- Setswana
- Sesotho
- IsiZulu
- TshiVenda
- Silozi

(15)

2. Use the kinship terminology often used in comparative language studies to indicate the relationship holding between the following:

- (i) IsiZulu and Siswati
- (ii) Proto-Nguni and Siswati
- (iii) Setswana and IsiZulu

(4)

3. Mention any three (3) groups of languages which belong to the Kordofanian family.

(6)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 4

(a) Apply vowel harmony rule on the following luMongo nouns:

- | | | |
|-------|--------|--------------|
| (i) | butuli | blacksmith |
| (ii) | ekenje | stone, brick |
| (iii) | ikala | cup |
| (iv) | lulimi | tongue |
| (v) | bulaki | teacher |

(5)

(b) Compare and contrast Guthrie's and Meinhof's classification of Bantu consonants. Comment on their similarities and differences.

(20)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 5

Luvale	CiCewa	Mambwe	Lenje	Lucazi	Gloss
1. Oseena	Onse	onsi	onse	Ose	All
2. Nyama	nyama	nyama	nyama	Situ	animal
3. Uto	Doti	twi	lota	To	ashes
4. Zhiimo	Mimba	da	bunda	Zimo	Belly
5. Neene	Kulu	kulu	nene	Kaama	Big
6. Zhila	Balani	unyi	keni	Zila	Bird
7. pupuuta	Khungu	tonko	ofu	Pupuuta	Blind person
8. nyinga	Gazi	azi	lowa	Ninga	blood
9. fuuhwa	Fupa	fupa	fuwa	Isiha	Bone
10. hwima	puma	fuuta	muuya	Hwima	breathe
11. landa	Gula	kala	ula	Landa	Buy

12. ato	Ato	ato	ato	Ato	canoe
13. ngombe	Ngombe	ngombe	ngombe	Ngombe	cattle
14. tafunya	Tafuna	tafuna	tafuna	Takinya	Chew
15. sumbi	Khuku	koko	nkuka	Sumbi	chicken
16. ana	Ana	ana	ana	Ana	Child
17. vwi	Kumbi	kumbi	kumbi	Seelwa	cloud
18. tuuta	Zizila	zuuka	tontola	Tontola	Cold
19. ngandu	Ngona	gwena	ntale	Ngandu	crocodile
20. wa	Galua	mbwa	bwa	Tali	Dog
21. nwa	Mwa	mwa	nywa	Nwa	drink
22. twi	Khutu	twi	twi	Twi	Ear
23. lya	Dya	lya	lya	Lya	Eat
24. njamba	Jovu	zovu	zovu	Njamba	elephant
25. kahya	Somba	oto	lilo	Tuhya	Fire

Using data provided in the above Table, do the following tasks:

- (a) Identify three (3) word stems which appear in five (5) languages, which seem to have originated from the same etymon. (6)
- (b) Detect two (2) word stems from five (5) languages which are difficult to tell that they originated from the same etymon. (4)
- (c) For each answer you provided in (a) and (b) above, explain the reason why it is easy or difficult to determine the etymon. (5)
- (d) Mention any four (4) daughters of Niger-Congo branch. (4)
- (e) Tone plays an important role in some Bantu languages as it distinguishes word meanings. Provide two Siswati words which have three different meanings and write their English equivalents. (6)

[25 marks]

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TITLE OF PAPER : THEMATIC STUDIES IN AFRICAN POETRY
AND DRAMA
COURSE CODE : IDE AL415
TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

ANSWER **THREE (3)** QUESTIONS IN ALL, CHOOSING FROM BOTH SECTIONS.
EACH QUESTION CARRIES 20 MARKS.

DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL IN YOUR ANSWERS.

COMMENCE EACH ANSWER ON A FRESH PAGE.

CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND ORGANISATION OF CONTENT WILL COUNT IN
THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER

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SECTION A: AFRICAN POETRY

Question 1

'The savage custom of walking naked, we are told, denuded all decorum. poetry, there is none; no rhyme, nothing that soothes the mind or arrest the passions.' Discuss the applicability of Burton's (1965) view in the context of the poetic scene of pre-colonial Africa.

Question 2

Ali Ahmed: *Anthology of Swahili Poetry* (1977)

In what ways can Shaaban Robert's poems' handling of the themes of the colonial era be considered ambivalent? Use any **two** poems for your illustrations.

Question 3

Freedom Nyamubaya: *On the Road Again* (1986)

Drawing examples from any **three** poems on the liberation struggle analyse the view that 'Issues and experiences to do with women are best tackled by a female writer.'

SECTION B: AFRICAN DRAMA

Question 4

How far true is it that preliterate African story telling sessions were indeed a form of drama? Use illustrations to support your answer.

Question 5

Efua T. Sunderland: *The Marriage of Anansewa* (1975)

Discuss how Ananse gets entangled in his own web of deceit and how he ultimately disentangles himself from each of the knots around him.

Question 6

Wole Soyinka: *Death and the King's Horseman* (1975)

Critically explore how Wole Soyinka exploits African performance traditions as well as Western theatrical modes to convey contemporary African concerns.

Question 7

Ngugi wa Thiongo and Ngugi wa Mirii: *I Will Marry When I Want* (1982)

Examine the challenges of post-independent Africa and the suggested ways of dealing with them as conveyed through the play.

END OF PAPER