

**UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION  
APRIL 2021**

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

**COURSE NUMBER: 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 FORMALISMS SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.**
  - 4. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING, AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.**
  - 5. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

SECTION A

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 1**

i) Distinguish between each of the following pairs of sound change types:

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. lexical change and semantic change      | [4 marks] |
| 2. epenthesis and metathesis               | [4 marks] |
| 3. apocope and syncope                     | [4 marks] |
| 4. monophthongization and diphthongization | [4 marks] |
| 5. assimilation and dissimilation          | [4 marks] |
| 6. raising and lowering                    | [4 marks] |

ii) Give one (1) example of any one (1) of the above sound change types. [1 Mark]

TOTAL=[25 MARKS]

**Question 2**

Consider the data below from Proto-Austronesian and Lenakel and do the tasks which follow:

Proto-Austronesian	Lenakel
*namatana	nimrin

i) Specify the changes between Proto-Austronesian and Lenakel. [4 marks]

ii) 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. [9 marks]

iii) Describe how each of the following linguistic concepts result in language change. Give one (1) example of each concept.

- |                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. syntactic change         | [4 marks] |
| 2. morphological reanalysis | [4 marks] |
| 3. borrowing                | [4 marks] |

TOTAL=[25 MARKS]

**SECTION B**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 3**

Look at the following examples from Proto-Romance and three Romance languages that are descended from it, and answer the questions that follow:

Proto-Romance	Spanish	Sardinian	Romanian	
*hilo	hilo	filu	fir	'thread'
*vino	vino	vinu	vin	'wine'
*riso	riso	rizu	ris	'laughter'

i) Using phonetic and/or phonological terminology, describe three (3) sound changes that took place between Proto-Romance and the three daughter languages that are shown in these examples. [12 marks]

ii) Are the changes you that you describe in (i) the same for each of the lexical items? Why or why not? [9 marks]

iii) The Spanish word for 'river' is *rio*. Predict what the Sardinian word for 'river' would be. [4 marks]

TOTAL: [25 MARKS]

**Question 4**

Look at the following examples from three stages in the history of English, and answer the questions that follow:

Old English	Middle English	Modern English	
[ba:t]	[bo:t]	[bowt]	'boat'
[a:θ]	[o:θ]	[owθ]	'oath'
[stɑ:n]	[sto:n]	[stowɪn]	'stone'

i) Using phonetic and/or phonological terminology, describe the changes that took place between Old English and Middle English, and between Middle English and Modern English. [12 marks]

ii) Are the changes you that you describe in (i) the same for each of the lexical items? Why or why not? [9 marks]

iii) The Middle English word [wi:f] 'wife' changed into the Modern English word [waɪf] 'wife'. How does this change fit the pattern shown by the examples above? [4 marks]

TOTAL: [25 MARKS]

**SECTION C**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 5**

Answer all of the following questions:

- i) What is Grimm's Law? [5 marks]
- ii) What type of historical sound change does Grimm's Law describe? [2 marks]
- iii) Name the language family and proto-language affected by Grimm's Law. [3 marks]
- iv) State each sound change of Grimm's Law. [9 marks]
- v) State three (3) generalizations about these sound changes. [6 marks]

TOTAL=[25 MARKS]

**Question 6**

Look at the following examples from Old Norse and Modern Norwegian, one of its daughter languages:

Old Norse:

hestr 'a horse' (subject)	hestrinn 'the horse' (subject)	nominative
hest 'a horse' (object)	hestinn 'the horse' (object)	accusative
hesti 'to a horse'	hestinum 'to the horse'	dative
hests 'of a horse'	hestsins 'of the horse'	genitive
hestar 'horses' (subject)	hestarnir 'the horses' (subject)	nominative
hesta 'horses' (object)	hestana 'the horses' (object)	accusative
hestum 'to horses'	hestunum 'to the horses'	dative
hesta 'of horses'	hestanna 'of the horses'	genitive

Modern Norwegian:

hest 'a horse'	hasten 'the horse'
hestar 'horses'	hestane 'the horses'

- i) Describe the linguistic change that took place between Old Norse and Modern Norwegian. [7 marks]
- ii) Name three (3) types of meaning that are distinguished in these examples. [6 marks]
- ii) Is the morphology of Old Norse isolating, agglutinating or synthetic? Explain your answer, using at least one (1) example. [6 marks]
- iii) Is the morphology of Modern Norwegian isolating, agglutinating or synthetic. Explain your answer, using at least one (1) example. [6 marks]

TOTAL=[25 MARKS]

**SECTION D**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 7**

- i) Define the concepts of *substratum*, *superstratum*, and *adstratum*. [12 marks]
- ii) Why are the concepts in (a) relevant to the study of historical linguistics? [7 marks]
- iii) Give one (1) example of each of the concepts in (a). [6 marks]

Total: [25 MARKS]

**Question 8**

Define the following terms:

1. comparative method [5 marks]
2. internal reconstruction [5 marks]
3. cognate [5 marks]
4. ancestor language [5 marks]
5. daughter language [5 marks]

**END OF EXAMINATION PAPER**