

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION  
JUNE 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**

Define each of the following terms.

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. universal tendencies                     | [5 marks] |
| 2. daughter language                        | [5 marks] |
| 3. conditioned sound change                 | [5 marks] |
| 4. genealogical classification of languages | [5 marks] |
| 5. prothesis                                | [5 marks] |

Total=[25 MARKS]

**Question 2**

- i) Name and define each of the morphological types observed in human languages. [20 marks]
- ii) For each of the morphological types that you defined in (i), name one (1) language that fits it. [4 marks]
- iii) Which unit of grammar does morphological typology describe? [1 mark]

Total=[25 MARKS]

**SECTION B**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 3**

Consider the examples below from five Romance languages:

Spanish	Sardinian	French	Portuguese	Romanian	
riβa	ripa	riv	riba	ripə	'embankment'
amiya	amika	ami	amiga	--	'female friend'
kopa	kuppa	kup	kopa	kupə	'cup'
gota	gutta	gut	gota	gutə	'drop'

Now answer the following questions:

i) Using phonetic and/or phonological terminology, describe six (6) differences among words with the same meaning in the above examples. [24 marks]

ii) According to O'Grady et al (1996), the Proto-Romance word for 'embankment' is /\*ripa/. State one (1) sound change that occurred between Proto-Romance and any one (1) of the languages of the examples, except Sardinian. [1 mark]

Total=[25 MARKS]

#### Question 4

Consider the data below from three Middle-Indic languages and answer the questions which follow:

Magadhi Prakrit	Pali	Maharastri Prakrit	
hasta	hatt <sup>h</sup> a	hatt <sup>h</sup> a	'hand'
nisp <sup>h</sup> ala	nipp <sup>h</sup> ala	nipp <sup>h</sup> ala	'fruitless'
pask <sup>h</sup> aladi	pakk <sup>h</sup> alati	pakk <sup>h</sup> alai	'he stumbles'

i) Using phonetic and/or phonological terminology, describe the differences among Magadhi Prakrit, Pali and Maharastri Prakrit. [12 marks]

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

iii) Given that the Maharastri Prakrit word for 'dry' is [sukk<sup>h</sup>a], what would be its cognate form in Magadhi Prakrit and Pali? [4 marks]

Total=[25 MARKS]

### SECTION C

*Choose one question from this section*

#### Question 5

Name and define five (5) causes of language change. [25 marks]

Total=[25 MARKS]

**Question 6**

i) Name and define four (4) subtypes of linguistic borrowing. [20 marks]

ii) Give one (1) example of each of the subtypes of borrowing that you give in (i). [4 marks]

iii) Name one (1) factor that encourages linguistic borrowing. [1 mark]

Total=[25 MARKS]

**SECTION D**

*Choose one question from this section*

**Question 7**

Define the following linguistic terms:

- |                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 1. blending         | [5 marks] |
| 2. clipping         | [5 marks] |
| 3. acronym          | [5 marks] |
| 4. backformation    | [5 marks] |
| 5. functional shift | [5 marks] |

Total=[25 MARKS]

**Question 8**

Define the following linguistic terms:

- |                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. implicational universals    | [5 marks] |
| 2. attested parent language    | [5 marks] |
| 3. typological classification  | [5 marks] |
| 4. unconditioned sound changes | [5 marks] |
| 5. case                        | [5 marks] |

Total=[25 MARKS]

**END OF EXAMINATION PAPER**