

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
EXAMINATION PAPER – NOVEMBER 2021  
B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE BANTU  
LINGUISTICS

COURSE CODE: AL413 / IDE – (MAIN)

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

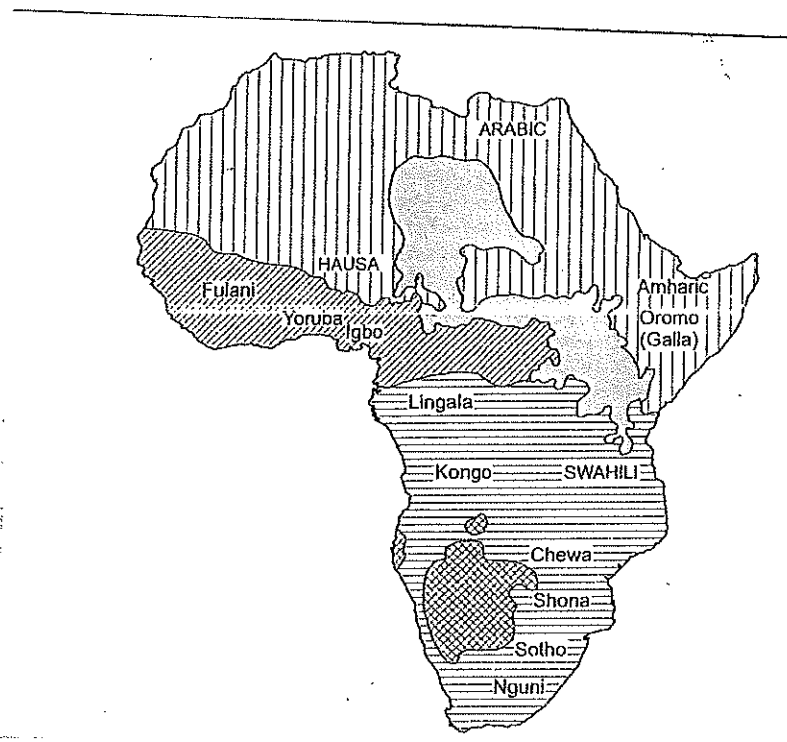
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## QUESTION 1

- (a) Give three (3) reasons why early researchers on Bantu languages were intensely preoccupied with the question of language classification. (3)
- (b) Mention two (2) universal defining features of human articulated language relevant to Historical and Comparative Linguistics and discuss their relevance to the subject. (10)
- (c) All living languages are continually changing with time. Comment on any two lexical changes and two semantic changes that have occurred in siSwati. (12)
- [25 marks]**

## QUESTION 2

- (a) What is the parent language for siSwati and isiXhosa? (1)
- (b) Provide any two (2) features of South Eastern Zone presented by Doke and for each feature supply examples from any of the languages that belong to this Zone. (5)
- (c) Comment on any 5 characteristic of Bantu languages presented by Guthrie. (15)
- (d) Using the map below, indicate the regions occupied by each of the four (4) language families of Africa.



### QUESTION 3

Read the contents of the two sections carefully and answer the questions that follow. For both (a) and (b), **provide the words** in which the changes are observed and **underline the relevant sounds**.

Sesotho in 1854	Sesotho in 2019
<p><b>KI MOLAO OA YOALA YOA MAKHUOA</b>            Molao oona o re: Yoala ba Makhuaa bo ne bo sa tseyoe ki Matie, leha e le Motlomi, le bagolu ba sechaba, ge isa go Bomonageng.</p> <p>'Me Mokachane o golile a inoella lebese fela le metsi. Ki ka baka la gobane moatloleli a bokhabane ga a lukeloe ki se tagang.</p> <p>Yoala ki khang, ki phosiso ea litaba; ga bo gagise motse; ba Makhuaa yona ki mollo. Go tseyoe ki gona gobane ga bo na rekoa sechabeng sena sa Basutu; 'me motu e k aba mang le mang, leha e le e mochu, leha e le lekhuoa a bo thlisang a reka ka yona gare ga sechaba, oa ipea kotsi ea gobane bo chulloefatse e be ki go fela.</p> <p>Molao oona oa ngoloa ka Sesutu le ka Sekhuoa; oa gatisoa, o manegoe pepeneneng sechabeng sa Basutu.</p> <p>'Mei oa molao oona ki 'na Moshesh, Ki na le bagolu ba sechaba.            Thaba Bosigo, 8 Purungoana, 1854</p>	<p><b>KE MOLAO OA JOALA BA MAKHOOA</b>            Molao ona o re: Joala ba Makhooa bo ne bo sa tsejoe ke Matie, leha e le Mohlomi, le baholo ba sechaba, ho isa ho Bo-Monaheng.</p> <p>'Me Mokhachane o holile a inoella lebese feela le metsi. Ke ka baka la hobane monghali ea khabane ha a lokeloe ke se tahang.</p> <p>Joala ke khang, ke phosiso ea litaba; ha bo hahe motse; ba Makhooa bona ke mollo. Ho tsejoe ke hona hobane ha bo na rekoa sechabeng sena sa Basotho; 'me motho e ka ba mang le mang, leha e le e motšo, leha e le lekhuoa ea bo tlising a bo rekisa kahara sechaba , o ipea kotsing hobane bo tla tšolloa fatše e be ke ho fela ha bona.</p> <p>Molao ona oa ngoloa ka Sesotho le ka Sekhooa; oa hatisoa, o manehoe pepeneneng sechabeng sa Basotho.</p> <p>'Mei oa molao ona ke 'na Moshoeshoe, ke na le baholo ba sechaba.            Thaba-Bosiu, 8 Pulungoane, 1854.</p>

(a) Identify five (5) instances of consonant changes that have occurred in Sesotho. (10)

(b) Identify the following instances of vowel changes:

- (i) One instance of vowel length (1)
- (ii) One instance of vowel deletion (1)
- (iii) Two instances of vowel change (4)

(c) Study data provided below and answer the questions that follow.

Proto-Bantu	Silozi	Sesotho
Luma	luma	Loma
yava	aba	aba
kana	hana	hana
kulu	hulu	holo
takuna	takuna	hlafuna
pa	fa	fa
livala	liβala	lebala
lipa	lifa	lefa
tatu	lalu	raro
yila	nzila	tsela

- (i) Provide five (5) examples which show consonant change between Proto-Bantu and Sesotho. (5)
- (ii) Supply two (2) examples which indicate consonant change between Silozi and Sesotho. (2)
- (iii) Give two (2) examples which show vowel change between Sesotho and Silozi. (2)
- [25 marks]

#### QUESTION 4

- (a) Mention two languages which belong to the Inhambane group according to Doke's classification. (4)
- (b) Provide the name of one country in which the Khoisan languages are spoken. (1)
- (c) Compare and contrast Guthrie's and Meinhof's classification of Bantu vowels. 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	Galu	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:

- Identify three (3) word stems which appear in five (5) languages, which seem to have originated from the same etymon. (9)
- Detect two (2) word stems from five (5) languages which are difficult to tell that they originated from the same etymon. (6)
- For each answer you provided in (a) and (b) above, explain the reason why it is easy or difficult to determine the etymon. (6)
- Mention any four (4) daughters of Niger-Congo branch. (4)

[25 marks]

## QUESTION 6

- Supply the three types of prefix found in Bantu languages, and give examples of each from any Bantu language. (6)
- Tone plays an important role in some Bantu languages as it distinguishes word meanings. Use two siSwati words (each with three different meanings) in sentences to show these distinctions. (14)
- Consider TshiVenda verbal forms presented below, and do the task which follows:
  - tshimilatshimil- (walk about)
  - gidimagidim- (run about)
  - Name the verbal extension found in these words. (1)

(ii) Analyse each word into morphemes and explain the significance of each morpheme. (4)

**[25 marks]**