UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER
APRIL 2021

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE BANTU LINGUISTICS

COURSE NUMBER: ALL407 / IDE ALL407

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.

2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION

3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISM SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

4. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED

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

SECTION A

LEXICOSTATISTICS AND GLOTTOCHRONOLOGY

Answer Question 1

Question 1

Examine the shared cognate percentage figures for the following ten hypothetical languages:

A

88	B

| 87 | 86 | C |

| 28 | 30 | 29 | D |

| 26 | 34 | 30 | 85 | E |

| 28 | 27 | 32 | 56 | 54 | F |

| 27 | 29 | 31 | 57 | 53 | 62 | G |

| 30 | 33 | 36 | 54 | 56 | 63 | 64 | H |

| 22 | 28 | 27 | 53 | 51 | 66 | 65 | 86 | I |

| 31 | 24 | 21 | 56 | 54 | 67 | 68 | 85 | 88 | J |

With reference to the above data,

(i)   Find out which languages are most closely related to each other and group them accordingly.   (3 marks)

(ii)   Work out the shared cognate percentages between the different groups, to find the second level of linguistic relationship.   (8 marks)

(iii)   Show the relationship of these languages in a family tree diagram. (5 marks)

(iv)   Estimate, according to glottochronology, the period of time the following languages may have separated from each other.

Language B from language C
Language C from language I   (9 marks)
Language E from language H

Note: Use the formula below to work out the time depth:

$$t = \frac{\log C}{2 \log r}$$

The value of r in this formula is set at **0.805**

[25 marks]

SECTION B

COMPARATIVE RECONSTRUCTION

Question 2

a) Consider the noun stems in the data provided below from Ur-Bantu and from three Modern Bantu languages and do the tasks that follow: (The items have been divided into prefix and stem for you)

Ur-Bantu	Swahili	Kongo	Zulu	Bemba	
mu-yaka	mw-aka	mw-aka	um-ɲaka	umw-aka	'year'
mu-kila	m-kia	ŋ-kila	um-sila	umu-ʧila	'tail'
mu-kipa	m-sipa	-------	um-sipʰa	---------	'vein'

  i)   State **one** phonological process which took place in the development of Swahili, Kongo, and Bemba stems for the item 'year' from Ur-Bantu stem /-yaka/.
  (2 marks)

  ii) State two phonological processes which took place in the development of the Zulu stem /- sipʰa/ from the Ur-Bantu stem /-kipa/.   (2 marks)

  iii) State one phonological process which took place in the development of the Bemba stem /- ʧila / from the Ur-Bantu stem /-kila/.   (2 marks)

  iv) State one phonological process which took place in the development of the Swahili stem /-kia/ from the Ur-Bantu stem /-kila/.   (2 marks)

b) With the use of distinctive features, formalize the diachronic phonological rules you stated in (i) and (ii) above   (9 marks)

c) With the use of distinctive features, formalize the diachronic phonological rules you stated in (iii) and (iv) above.   (8 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 3

a) Consider the following data from four Bantu languages and do the tasks that follow.

SiSwati	IsiZulu	S.Sesotho	Bemba	
umfati	umfazi	mʊsadi	umukaʃi	'woman/wife'
umuti	umuzi	mʊtsɪ	umuʃi	'village/home'
emanti	amanzi	metsi	ameʃi	'water'

| imbuti | imbuzi | podi | imbuʃi | 'goat' |
| tinkʰuni | izinkuni | dibeso | inkuni | 'firewood' |

i) Which of the four languages whose data appear above do you consider to share cognates, if any? Justify your claim. (3 marks)

ii) In the languages you consider to share cognate forms, identify and list the consonant correspondences found in the nominal stems. Do not include identical sets. (3 marks)

iii) For each set of consonant correspondences you identified in (a (ii)) above, reconstruct the proto-consonant and state the strategy you used to arrive at the proto-consonant. (6 marks)

iv) State the phonological processes which took place during the evolution of the following forms from the Proto-language:

   1. The Bemba stem [imbuʃi] 'goat'.
   2. The IsiZulu stem [umfazi] 'woman/wife' (5 marks)
   3. The siSwati stem [tinkʰuni] 'firewood'

b) With the use of distinctive features, formalize the diachronic phonological rules you stated in (iv) (1and 2)) above. (8 marks)

[25 marks]

SECTION C
*Choose **one** question from this section*

Question 4

a) The difference between partial reduplication and complete reduplication is rather unclear and relative. Explain. (5 marks)

b) With illustrations from Guthrie's Proto-Bantu and siSwati vowel systems, discuss the *7 > 5 vowel shift. (12 marks)

c) With the aid of examples from Ganda Lamba, discuss the similarities and differences in the operation of Meinhof's Law in the two languages. (8 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 5

a) With illustrations from siSwati, discuss any **four** strategies used to resolve vowel hiatus (12 marks)

b) Provide a list of Guthrie's Proto-Bantu nominal class number and prefixes (1-15) and show what they become in siSwati. (13 marks)

[25 marks]

SECTION D
Choose *one* question from this section

Question 6

a) Discuss how the following Modern Bantu words were derived from Proto-Bantu. (Your discussion should show a step-by-step derivation of these forms):

Proto-Bantu	Kaonde	Lungu	Bemba		
*di,ud-	ʒul-a	zyul-a	ʃul-a	'uproot'	(6 marks)
*gubo	fuβu	vuwu	vubu	'hippo'	(6 marks)
*tig-	ʃ-a	sy-a		'leave'	(4 marks)

b) Discuss the following terms/concepts in relation to linguistic comparison and reconstruction:
   i)   Arbitrariness;
   ii) Relatedness hypothesis;   (9 marks)
   iii) Phonetic plausibility strategy.

[25 marks]

Question 7

Malcom Guthrie proposed criteria to be used in the identification of languages as belonging to the Bantu family. Discuss and critically evaluate these criteria.

[25 marks]