

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2009

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

COURSE NUMBER: AL100/IDE-AL100

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.**
 - 3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.**
 - 4. ALL EXAMPLES IN OTHER LANGUAGES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**

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

SECTION A

PHONETICS

Choose one question from this section

Question 1

- a) Give the regular English orthography for the following words, which are given in a broad transcription:

- i) bu:k
- ii) onli
- iii) smuðən (5)
- iv) θɪŋk
- v) dʒʌmpt

- b) Give a phonetic representation of the following pairs of English words:

- i) show – shoe
- ii) weary – worry
- iii) lose – loose (10)
- iv) spot – Scot
- v) latter – later

- c) The sounds [k] and [f] are associated with different orthographic representations (letters). For each sound, provide at least 3 different examples from English. In your examples, underline the part of the word that represents the [k] and the [f] sound. (6)

- d) The letter *a* can be pronounced in a number of different ways. Provide a minimum of 4 different examples. For each word you find, indicate the sound that is represented by the letter *a*. (4)

[25 marks]

Question 2

- a) Provide a three term label description of each of the sounds represented by the following IPA symbols:

[t] [dʒ] [ɹ] [tʰ] [b] [f] [h] [g] (16)

Example: [s]

Glottal activity
Voiceless

Manner
fricative

Place
alveolar

- a) Define the following linguistic terms and expressions in connection with speech sounds:

- i) nasals
- ii) egressives (9)
- iii) voiced speech sounds

[25 marks]

SECTION B

PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY

Choose one question from this section

Question 3

- a) Consider the following data from a language called Mawao:

manao	'he wishes'
matua	'he is old'
malosi	'he is strong'
punou	'he bends'
savali	'he travels'
laga	'he weaves'
mananao	'they wish'
malolosi	'they are strong'
atamamaki	'they are wise'
pepese	'they sing'

- i) How would you say the following in Mawao?

- 1. He is wise
- 2. He sings
- 3. They bend
- 4. They are old (8)

- ii) Formulate a general statement which states how the third person plural form is formed from the third person singular. (3)

- b) Divide the following words into their separate morphemes. Label the morpheme as either lexical, derivational, or inflectional:

- i) instrumental
- ii) grandmother
- iii) psychology
- iv) uncouth
- v) unfriendly
- vi) basically (10)
- vii) assimilation
- viii) London
- ix) impossible
- x) enjoyed

- c) With the aid of examples, define the following word formation processes.

- i) blends
- ii) back-formations (4)

[25 marks]

Question 4

- (a) Consider the following forms from Indonesia and Tagalog and then answer the questions that follow:

Indonesian

rumah	'house'	rumahrumah	'houses'
ibu	'mother'	ibuibu	'mothers'
lalat	'fly'	lalatlalat	'flies'

Tagalog

bili	'buy'	bibili	'will buy'
kain	'eat'	kakain	'will eat'
pasok	'enter'	papasok	'will enter'

- i) State how Indonesian forms plural of nouns. (2)
- ii) State how Tagalog forms the future tense of verbs. (2)

- (b) The following words are all regular plural forms of English nouns:

pots
wishes
languages
pegs
taps

books
stitches
terms
pads

- (i) List the allomorphs of the plural morpheme in English. (3)
 - (ii) Which allomorph makes the best underlying form? Why? (3)
 - iii) State in words the conditioning factors that account for the presence of the different allomorphs of the English plural morpheme. (6)
- c) Using distinctive features, formalize the following rules:
- i) Non-labial consonants are labialized when they occur before the vowel /u/ and /o/. (9)
 - ii) A voiceless consonant becomes voiced intervocalically. (9)
 - iii) Voiced stops are phonetically realized as voiceless segments in word-final position. (6)

[25 marks]

Syntax, Semantics and Pragmatics

Answer *one question* from Section C and *one question* from Section D. Read the instructions carefully before you start writing.

Section C: Syntax

Question 5

Consider the following English sentence (a) and the two (2) semantic observations about it:

a) John painted the picture in the kitchen in the library.

Observation 1: Sentence (a) means that the picture that is now in the kitchen was painted in the library.

Observation 2: Sentence (a) cannot mean that the picture that is now in the library was painted in the kitchen.

- i) Use phrase structure to explain Observation 1 (10 marks)
- ii) Use phrase structure to explain Observation 2 (10 marks).
- iii) Include at least one (1) phrase-structure tree in your explanations (5 marks).

[25 marks]

Question 6

Use the following English sentence (a) to answer questions (i)-(v):

(a) Mary planted the spinach in the garden.

- i. Draw a phrase structure tree for sentence (a). (5 marks)
- ii. Give the phrase structure rules that were used to draw the tree for sentence (a). (5 marks)
- iii. Identify each phrase-level category and each word-level category in the tree for sentence (a). (5 marks)
- iv. Identify two (2) examples of direct domination in the tree for sentence (a) and explain why they are examples. (5 marks)
- v. Identify two (2) examples of sisters in the tree for sentence (a) and explain why they are examples. (5 marks)

[25 marks]

Section D: Semantics and Pragmatics

Question 7

Consider the following example (a) of something a mother might say to her child and use it to answer questions (i)-(iii):

a) "How many times have I told you not to run in the house?"

- i. What is the literal meaning of this utterance? (7 marks)
- ii. What is the most likely illocutionary intent of this utterance? (8 marks)
- iii. Use the maxims of conversation to explain the difference between the literal meaning and the illocutionary intent. (10 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 8

Define the pairs of terms in (a)-(e). Illustrate each of your answers with examples from at least two (2) languages of your choice.

- a. synonym and antonym (5 marks)
- b. tautology and contradiction (5 marks)
- c. sense and reference (5 marks)
- d. speech acts and illocutionary force (5 marks)
- e. maxims of quality and quantity (5 marks)

[25 marks]

End of Question Paper