

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2011
B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE 1

COURSE NUMBER: AL110/IDE-AL110

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION, AND THE FOURTH QUESTION FROM EITHER SECTION A OR SECTION B**
 - 3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.**
 - 4. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**

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SECTION A

PHONETICS

Question 1

- (a) The following transcription represents one person's reading of this passage. Write out the passage using Standard English orthography.

[ɪt ɪz pɒsəbl tə trænskraɪb fənetɪklɪ ɛnɪ ʌtrens, ɪn ɛnɪ læŋgwɪdʒ, ɪn səvrəl dɪfrənt weɪz ɔl əv ðəm juːzɪŋ ðɪ ælfəbet ənd kənvenʃənz əv ðɪ aɪ pɪ eɪ. (ðə seɪm θɪŋ ɪz pɒsəbl wɪð moʊst ɪntənəʃənəl fənetɪk ælfəbetz) ə trænskɪrɪpʃn wɪtʃ ɪz meɪd baɪ juːzɪŋ lɛtəz əv ðə sɪmpləst pɒsəbl ʃeɪps, ənd ɪn ðə sɪmpləst pɒsəbl nʌmbə, ɪz kɔld ə sɪmpl fəʊnɪmɪk trænskɪrɪpʃn] (16)

- (b) Write the IPA symbols representing the following phonetic descriptions, and illustrate each of the sounds with a word in a language that contains the sound:

- (i) Voiced bilabial fricative
- (ii) Voiceless alveopalatal affricate
- (iii) Uvular nasal stop
- (iv) Low front unrounded vowel
- (v) High tense rounded vowel (9)
- (vi) Voiceless pharyngeal fricative
- (vii) Voiceless lateral alveolar fricative
- (viii) Alveolar lateral liquid
- (ix) High back tense unrounded vowel

[25 marks]

Question 2

- a) Distinguish between the following linguistic terms and concepts. For each argument give an example from any language:

- i) aspirated and unaspirated sound
- ii) oral and nasal sound (15)
- iii) Velaric and glottalic airstream mechanism

- b) Using the phonetic alphabet, transcribe the following English words as you pronounce them in casual speech:

- i) choice
- ii) horse
- iii) through (10)
- iv) filed
- v) syntax

[25 marks]

SECTION B

PHONOLOGY

Question 3

- a) What distinctive feature, if any, do the following sets of sound segments share?

- i) vowels and semi vowels;
- ii) consonants and vowels;
- iii) stops and affricates; (5)
- iv) bilabials and rounded vowels;
- v) liquids and semi vowels

- b) Using phonetic cover terms formalize the rules expressed in ordinary English words:

- i) A glide is inserted between vowels.
- ii) A consonant is deleted when it occurs before another consonant.
- iii) Voiceless stops are aspirated in word-initial position. (4)

- c) Using distinctive features, formalize the following rules:

- i) The sequence /a/ /i/ becomes [e] when a word boundary intervenes between them..
- ii) A voiceless consonant becomes voiced between vowels
- iii) Voiceless stops are phonetically realized as aspirated in word-initial position.
- iv) A vowel or a glide becomes long before a voiced consonant. (16)

Question 4

- a) In Southern Congo, a Bantu language spoken in Angola, the non-palatal segments [t, s, and z] are in complementary distribution with their palatal counterparts [tʃ, ʃ, ʒ], as shown in the following words:

[tobola]	“to bore a hole”
[tʃina]	“to cut”
[kesoka]	“to be cut”
[ŋkoʃi]	“lion”
[zeŋa]	“to cut”
[zima]	“to stretch”
[kasu]	“emaciation”
[tʃiba]	“banana”
[zevo]	“then”
[azimola]	“alms”
[kunezulu]	“to heaven”
[tanu]	“five”

- i) State the distribution of each pair of segments given below:

[t] – [tʃ]	
[s] – [ʃ]	
[z] – [ʒ]	(6)

- ii) Which phones should be used as the underlying phoneme for each pair? State the reasons for your choice. (8)

- 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? [2]

- (iii) State in words the conditioning factors that account for the presence of the different allomorphs of the English plural morpheme. [6]

[25 marks]

SECTION C
MORPHOLOGY

Question 5

- (a) Consider the following forms from IciBemba, a Bantu language spoken in Zambia, and then answer the questions that follow:

alalanda	"s/he speaks
ulalanda	"you (singular) speak"
tulalanda	"we speak"
mulalanda	"you (plural) speak"
balalanda	"they speak"
ndalanda	"I speak"
nkalanda	"I will speak"
tukalanda	"we will speak"

- i) What is the morpheme for "I"? (2)
ii) What is the present tense morpheme? (2)
iii) Which are the allomorphs of the present tense morpheme? (2)
iv) State the distribution of the allomorphs you identified in (3) above. (5)
v) Given that [tatubwela] means "we do not come", how would you say the following in IciBemba?
i) They do not come
ii) I will come
iii) You (plural) come (9)

- d) Indicate the word formation process responsible for the creation of the following words:

1. street light
2. Rob
3. housekeep
4. empty (Verb) (5)
5. UK

[25 marks]