

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: DECEMBER 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 (1) QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.**
 - 3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS 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

PHONETICS

Choose one question from this section

Question 1

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

[p] [w] [ŋ] [ɬ] [ɗ] [ʔ] [R] [j] (16)

Example: [v]	Glottal activity Voiced	Manner fricative	Place labiodental
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- b) Transcribe phonetically the siSwati items which follow:

- | | | | |
|-------|---------|------------|-----|
| i) | jova | 'inject' | |
| ii) | bala | 'count' | |
| iii) | tsenga | 'buy' | |
| iv) | phisa | 'brew' | |
| v) | luhleko | 'laughter' | (9) |
| vi) | ngena | 'enter' | |
| viii) | inyama | 'meat' | |
| ix) | yosa | 'grill' | |
| x) | imfene | 'baboon' | |

[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 speech sound | |
| ii) | oral and nasal speech sound | (15) |
| iii) | Voiced and voiceless speech sound | |

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

- i) structure
- ii) home
- iii) thrash (10)
- iv) debt
- v) semantics

[25 marks]

SECTION B

PHONOLOGY

Choose one question from this section

Question 3

- (a) Distinguish between each of the following linguistic terms and concepts. Support your argument with examples from English.
- (i) accidental gaps and systematic gaps; (5)
 - (ii) allophones in free variation and allophones in complementary distribution. (5)
- (b) In each of the following pairs of words, the underlined sounds differ by one or more phonetic properties (features). State the differences and, in addition, state what properties they have in common.
- (i) thigh thy
 - (ii) reduce reduction
 - (iii) taps tabs (9)
- (c) In each of the groups (i-iii) below there is one odd member, the rest belonging to a natural class. Identify the odd one out and say which feature is common to the remainder.
- i) [x, ʁ, ŋ, k, p]
 - ii) [n, l, ʒ, d, ŋ] (6)
 - iii) [v, n, m, ɔ, β]

[25 marks]

Question 4

In Southern Congo, a Bantu language spoken in Angola, the non-palatal segments [t, s, 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”
[zeɾa]	“to cut”
[ʒima]	“to stretch”
[kasu]	“emaciation”
[tʃiba]	“banana”
[zevo]	“then”
[aʒimola]	“alms”
[kunezulu]	“to heaven”
[tanu]	“five”

a) State the distribution of each pair of segments given below:

i) [t] – [tʃ]

ii) [s] – [ʃ]

iii) [z] – [ʒ]

(6)

b) Which phones should be used as the underlying phoneme for each pair? For instance, should [t] and [tʃ] be derived from /t/ and /tʃ/, respectively? State the reasons for your choice.

(8)

c) State, in words, one phonological rule that will derive all the phonetic segments from phonemes. Do not state a separate rule for each phoneme, but a general rule for all three phonemes you listed in (b) above.

(4)

d) Formalize the rule you stated in (c) above with the use of distinctive features.

(7)

[25 marks]

SECTION C

MORPHOLOGY

Choose one question from this section

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)

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

1. campus nurse
2. Liz
3. housekeep
4. empty (Verb) (5)
5. USA

[25 marks]

Question 6

(a) Briefly explain what you understand by each of the following morphological terms. Support your explanation with one example from any language:

- i) Affixes (3)
- ii) morphophonemic rules (4)
- iii) productive morphological rules (3)
- iv) derivational morphemes (3)

(b) Assign a morphological tree structure for each of the following words:

- i) psychology
- ii) derivational (12)
- iii) reading material
- iv) derivational

[25 marks]

SECTION D

MISCELLANEOUS

Choose one question from this section

Question 7

a) Distinguish between each of the following linguistic terms and concepts. Support your argument with examples from English:

- i) Linguistic competence and linguistic performance;
- ii) Structural ambiguity and lexical ambiguity; (12)
- iii) Prescriptive grammar and descriptive grammar.

b) With examples from any language, discuss **three** disadvantages of using spelling; instead of phonetic symbols in representing speech sounds. (9)

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

- i) vowels and semi vowels;
- ii) stops and affricates; (4)
- iii) bilabials and rounded vowels;
- iv) liquids and semi vowels.

[25 marks]

Question 8

a) 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]

b) Using distinctive features, formalize the following phonological rules:

- i) A voiced bilabial stop becomes a voiced bilabial fricative between vowels. (4)
- ii) The vowel /i/ is deleted before the vowel /e/. (3)
- iii) A vowel becomes nasalized before a nasal consonant. (3)
- iv) A voiceless stop is phonetically realized as aspirated in word-initial position. (3)

[25 marks]