

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2013

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS: BANTU

COURSE NUMBER: AL 312 Full Time

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Answer four (4) questions in all.**
- 2. Choose two (2) questions from Section A.**
- 3. Choose two (2) questions from Section B.**

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SECTION A

Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 1

Describe the contribution of any **FIVE (5)** of the following to the development of Bantu Linguistics.

- i. Jāqût
- ii. Father Gonçalo da Silveira
- iii. John W. Colenso
- iv. Father Georges de Gheel
- v. Duarte Barbosa
- vi. Ancient Egypt
- vii. Philipo Pigafetta
- viii. James C. Bryant
- ix. Karl Richard Lepsius
- x. Father J. Torrend, S.J.

[25 marks]

Question 2

List Clement Martyn Doke's nine (9) major morphological characteristics of Southern Bantu languages. Give one (1) example of each of these characteristics from a Bantu language or languages of your choice.

[25 marks]

Question 3

In Giacinto Brusciotto's (1659) grammar of KiKongo, what terms does he use for noun class prefixes and preprefixes (initial vowels)? Why did he use these terms? What insight of Brusciotto's concerning Bantu languages is revealed by his use of these terms?

[25 marks]

Question 4

Compare and contrast Clement Martyn Doke's system for numbering Bantu noun classes with that of Carl Meinhof and Wilhelm Heinrich Immanuel Bleek. Illustrate each one with examples from a Bantu language or languages of your choice. Give one advantage and one disadvantage of each.

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 5

Choose five (5) of the following languages or language families. For each one, describe its genetic relationship, or lack thereof, to each of the other five, according to Greenberg's classification.

- i. Plateau
- ii. Arabic
- iii. Pulaar
- iv. Amharic
- v. Batu
- vi. Adamawa-Eastern
- vii. Akan
- viii. Shona
- ix. Tamazight
- x. Sandawe

[25 marks]

Question 6

Describe four (4) sources of the earliest known likely written records of Bantu languages.

[25 marks]

Question 7

What are Joseph Greenberg's three (3) principles of language classification? How many language super-families did he posit for Africa? What are the names of these super-families? To which of these super-families does Bantu belong to? Name each language family that links Bantu to this super-family.

[25 marks]

Question 8

Name five (5) 16th century Portuguese recorders of Bantu languages. Describe the professions they followed, their motivations for investigating Bantu languages and the difficulties they faced.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER