UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2014
B. A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS: BANTU

COURSE NUMBER: AL413/IDE AL413

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.

2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION A

3. CHOOSE THREE QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B

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

5. 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									
68	B								
13	11	C							
39	37	9	D						
39	36	8	66	E					
35	33	10	67	65	F				
37	35	9	57	53	50	G			
30	33	36	54	56	33	34	H		
22	28	27	53	51	46	57	67	I	
31	24	21	56	54	47	58	66	69	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:

1. Language A from language D

2. Language E from language F   (9 marks)
3. Language B from language J

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

Answer question 2 and any other two questions in this section

Question 2

Consider the data from two Bantu languages; Setswana and Tshivenda and answer the questions which follow:

1. Setswana

rat-a	rat^w-a	rat-iw-a	'be loved'
bop-a	botʃ^w-a	bop-iw-a	'be moulded'
tɬʰab-a	tɬʰadʒ^w-a	tɬʰab-iw-a	'be stabbed'
bof-a	boʃ^w-a	bof-iw-a	'be bound'
rɛm-a	rɛŋ^w-a	rem-iw-a	'be chopped'
dʒ-a	dʒ-ɪw-a		'be eaten'
ts'amay-a	ts'amay^w-a	ts'amay-iw-a	'go (pass.)'

3. Tshivenda

vul-a	vul^w-a	vul-iw-a	'be opened'
ɸaṭ-a	ɸaṭ^w-a	ɸaṭ-iw-a	'be built'
ɸ-a		ɸ-iw-a	'be given'
k-a		k-iw-a	'be picked'
tap'-a	tap^y-a	tap'-iw-a	'be flicked'
kʰopʰ-a	kʰopʰʸ-a	kʰopʰ-iw-a	'be broken off'

Discuss, with relevant examples, the formation of the passive in siSwati and then compare and contrast it with the formation of the passive in Setswana and Tshivenda as exemplified in the above data.

[25 marks]

Question 3

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

(8 marks)

b) With the aid of examples form relevant Bantu languages, discuss the similarities and differences between Meinhof's Law and Kwanyama Law.

(5 marks)

c) Provide a list of Guthrie's Proto-Bantu nominal class number and prefixes (1-15) and show what they become in siSwati.   (12 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 4

a) Study the Lamba data provided below and do the tasks which follow:

-cit-	'do'	-citil-	'do for'
-pat-	'scold'	-patil-	'scold for'
-kunt-	'shake'	-kuntil-	'shake for'
-cet-	'spy'	-cetel-	'spy for'
-sonk-	'pay tax'	-sonkel-	'pay tax for'
-lim-	'cultivate'	-limin-	'cultivate for'
-kan-	'deny'	-kanin-	'deny for'
-pum-	'beat'	-pumin-	'beat for'
-fweny-	'scratch'	-fwenyen-	'scratch for'
-pon-	'fall'	-ponen-	'fall for'

i) Name the verbal extension found in the data above.   (2 marks)

ii) List the allomorphs of this extension in Lamba, and describe the distribution of the allomorphs.   (8 marks)

b) Compare the Lamba data provided in (a) above with those given below:

-alul-	'change'	-alwil-	'change for'
-cofol-	'bend'	-cofwel-	'bend for'
-kamun-	'tear'	-kamwin-	'tear for'
-konon-	'break'	-konwen-	'break for'

Explain how the extension you mentioned in (a (i)) above operates in these items.

(5 marks)

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

Language	Singular	Plural	
Gisu	ligi	gamagi	'egg(s)'
Kongo	diki	meki	'egg(s)'
Rimi	ige	mage	'egg(s)'
S. Sotho	lihi	mahi	'egg(s)'
Zambian Tonga	iji	maji	'egg(s)'
Tswana	lii	mai	'egg(s)'

According to Guthrie (1970), the Proto-Bantu stem for 'egg' is /-gi/. With the use of distinctive features, formalize the diachronic phonological rules which applied to the proto-Bantu stem to evolve the following:

i)   the Kongo stem;
ii)   the Rimi stem; and   (10 marks)
iii) the Tswana stem.

[25 Marks]

Question 5

a) List the Proto-Bantu nominal prefixes 19-23 and for each class show how the Proto-Bantu prefix is reflected in any **one** modern day Bantu language.
(10 marks)

b) Wherever the Proto-Bantu prefix has changed in a modern Bantu language illustrated in (a) above, state the phonological process which occurred during the development of the modern Bantu language.   (5 marks)

c) With illustrations from any Bantu language, distinguish between the following linguistic concepts:

i)   open and close vowels;   (4 marks)
ii)   tone spread and tonal shift;   (6 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 6

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]