UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2016

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS

COURSE NUMBER: AL 311

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.

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

i. Priscian
ii. Sanskrit
iii. Sir William Jones
iv. Phoenicia
v. Ferdinand de Saussure
vi. The Stoics
vii. Prince Nikolai Trubetskoy
viii. Aristotle
ix. Ancient Sumer

[25 marks]

Question 2

Describe the contribution of each of the following to the understanding of phonation (voicing) in the development of Western linguistics:

1. Indian grammarians
2. William Holder
3. Dionysius Thrax
4. Plato

[25 marks]

Question 3

Name four (4) social and cultural motivations for the study of languages and linguistics. Describe how each motivation is or was relevant to such study in one (1) or more societies.

[25 marks]

Question 4

Describe the evolution of the Roman alphabet from its earliest known origins.

[25 marks]
Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 5

Describe the contribution of any FIVE (5) of the following to the development of Western Linguistics:

i. Henry Sweet  
ii. Lindley Murray  
iii. Berthold Delbrück  
iv. Jakob Grimm  
v. August Schleicher  
vi. Leonard Bloomfield  
vii. Roman Jakobson  
viii. Joseph Greenberg  
ix. Karl Brugmann

[25 marks]

Question 6

In the development of Western linguistics, study of language and linguistics took place in a number of historical periods. Name four (4) such periods of history. For each historical period that you name, describe events that took place during that period which contributed to such study.

[25 marks]

Question 7

Describe the contribution of each of the following to the understanding of Universal Grammar in the development of Western linguistics:

1. Roger Bacon  
2. Wilhelm von Humboldt  
3. The Port Royal Grammarians  
4. Noam Chomsky

[25 marks]

Question 8

Define the Comparative Method. State what the Comparative Method has in common with etymology as practiced by the Ancient Greeks and Romans. State how the Comparative Method
and etymology are different. Which one is preferred by linguists today? Why?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER