

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
RESIT EXAMINATION  
JULY 2017

**TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY**

**COURSE NUMBER: ALL103**

**TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS**

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
  - 2. CHOOSE TWO QUESTIONS FROM EACH SECTION.**
  - 3. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING, AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.**
  - 4. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**

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

**SECTION A  
PHONETICS**

**Answer Question 1 and any other question from this section**

**Question 1**

- a) Discuss two advantages of describing speech sounds acoustically. [4]
- b) What distinguishes the following sets of sounds in terms of formant structure:
- i) Vowels from nasals;
  - ii) Nasals from laterals; [12]
  - iii) Voiced sounds from voiceless sounds;
  - iv) Fricatives from stops.
- c) Discuss the following terms in relation to acoustic phonetics:
- i) Sound waves;
  - ii) Frequency; [9]
  - iii) Pitch.

**[25 Marks]**

**Question 2**

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) A voiced interdental fricative;
- ii) A voiced glottal fricative;
- iii) A voiceless labiodental fricative;
- iv) A low back vowel;
- v) A voiced bilabial fricative;
- vi) A voiceless alveolar lateral fricative;
- vii) A voiceless alveopalatal ejective affricate;
- viii) A voiced coarticulated labiovelar stop;
- ix) A voiced alveolar implosive;
- x) A voiceless alveopalatal fricative;
- xi) A voiced velar nasal;
- xii) A voiced lateral liquid;
- xiii) A voiced lateral fricative;
- xiv) A voiced palatal approximant;
- xv) A schwa;

- xvi) A voiceless bilabial fricative;
- xvii) A voiceless glottal stop;
- xviii) A low central vowel;
- xix) A high back lax vowel;
- xx) A voiceless velar fricative;
- xxi) A voiced rhotic liquid;
- xxii) A voiced alveolar affricate
- xxiii) A mid tense front vowel;
- xxiv) A low-high back diphthong;
- xxv) A voiceless alveolar retroflex fricative.

[25 marks]

**Question 3**

Transcribe phonetically the siSwati items which follow:

- |       |           |                 |
|-------|-----------|-----------------|
| i)    | bhala     | 'write'         |
| ii)   | bala      | 'count'         |
| iii)  | hishwa    | 'choke'         |
| iv)   | hlola     | 'peep'          |
| v)    | ngena     | 'enter'         |
| vi)   | gijima    | 'run'           |
| vii)  | guba      | 'dig'           |
| viii) | kona      | 'take a corner' |
| ix)   | kona      | 'it'            |
| x)    | jova      | 'inject'        |
| xi)   | citsa     | 'pour'          |
| xii)  | kungcola  | 'dirt'          |
| xiii) | indvodza  | 'man'           |
| xiv)  | dlala     | 'play'          |
| xv)   | inja      | 'dog'           |
| xvi)  | hlabelela | 'sing'          |

[25 marks]

**SECTION B  
PHONOLOGY**

***Answer Question 4 and any other question from this section***

**Question 4**

- 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) Consider the following data from Ganda, a language spoken in Uganda, and do the tasks which follow:

kola	'do'
wawaabira	'accuse'
lwana	'fight'
buulira	'tell'
lya	'eat'
omugole	'bride'
effirimbi	'whistle'
olulimi	'tongue'
wulira	'hear'
omuliro	'fire'
eddwaliro	'hospital'
jjukira	'remember'

- (i) Are the liquids [l] and [r] allophones of the same phoneme in Ganda or do they belong to separate phonemes? [2]
- (ii) If you believe they belong to separate phonemes, give evidence from the data. If you believe they are allophones of the same phoneme, list the conditioning environments. [5]
- (iii) Give a phonemic representation for the first six (6) words. [6]

[25 marks]

**Question 5**

a) Distinguish between each of the following linguistic terms and concepts. Give for each argument an example from any language.

- (i) Allophones in free variation and allophones in complementary distribution;
- (ii) Minimal pair and near minimal pair; [12]
- (iii) Accidental gaps and systematic gaps.

b) Name the single feature that distinguishes the following pairs of sounds:

- i) [j] : [i]
- ii) [k] : [x]
- iii) [f] : [v] [7]
- iv) [j] : [e]
- v) [h] : [ɦ]
- vi) [z] : [d]
- vii) [kʰ] : [k]

c) Using phonetic cover terms, formalize the rules expressed in ordinary English words:

- i) The palatal glide is inserted between two high front vowels.
- ii) A consonant is fronted when it occurs word-finally.
- iii) Voiceless stops are voiced in word-initial position. [6]

**Question 6**

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

- i) Non-labial consonants are labialized when they occur before the vowel /u/ and /o/.
- ii) A voiceless consonant becomes voiced intervocalically. [15]
- iii) A voiced bilabial stop becomes a voiced bilabial fricative between vowels.
- iv) The vowel /i/ is deleted before the vowel /e/.
- v) A voiceless alveolar stop becomes voiced word-finally.

b) In each of the groups (i-v) 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. [d, ʒ, z, f, ʎ]
- ii. [x, ɣ, ŋ, k, p]
- iii. [n, l, ʙ, d, ŋ] [10]
- iv. [v, n, m, ɔ, β]
- v. [s, t, d, ʈ, n]

[25 marks]