UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER JULY 2017

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE I

COURSE NUMBER: IDE-AL110

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.

2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION 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.
Question 1

(a) 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 voiceless interdental fricative;
ii) A voiceless glottal fricative;
iii) A voiced labiodental fricative;
iv) A low front vowel;
v) A voiceless bilabial fricative;
vii) A voiceless alveopalatal affricate;
viii) A voiceless coarticulated labiovelar stop;
ix) A voiced bilabial implosive;
x) A voiced alveopalatal fricative;
x) A voiceless alveopalatal ejective affricate;
vii) A voiceless alveopalatal affricate;
viii) A voiceless coarticulated labiovelar stop;
ix) A voiced bilabial implosive;
xii) A voiced velar nasal;
xiii) A voiced lateral liquid;
xiv) A voiced palatal approximant;
xv) A schwa;
xvi) A voiced bilabial fricative;
xvii) A voiceless glottal stop;
xviii) A low central vowel;
xix) A high back tense vowel;
xx) A voiceless velar fricative;

(b) With the aid of illustrations from any language(s), briefly explain what you understand by any two of the following linguistic terms and concepts:

i) Linguistic Performance
ii) Lexical ambiguity
iii) Descriptive grammar

[25 Marks]

Question 2

(a) Give the regular English orthography for the following words, which are given in a broad transcription:

i) buk
ii) onli
(b) Give a phonetic representation of the following pairs of English words:
i) show – shoe
ii) weary – worry
iii) lose – loose
iv) spot – Scot
v) latter – later

(c) i) The sound [f] is associated with different orthographic representations (letters). Provide at least 5 different examples. In your examples, underline the part of the word that represents the [f] sound.
ii) The letter a can be pronounced in different ways. Provide a minimum of 5 different examples. For each word you find, indicate the sound that is represented by the letter a.

SECTION B
PHONOLOGY

Choose one question from this section

Question 3

(a) Name the single feature that distinguishes the following pairs of sounds:
i) [i] : [ɪ]
ii) [k] : [x]
iii) [f] : [v]
iv) [i] : [e]
v) [ŋ] : [h]
vii) [z] : [d]
viii) [kʰ] : [k]
vii) [e] : [o]
ix) [n] : [ŋ]
x) [r] : [l]

(b) Using phonetic cover terms, formalize the rules expressed in ordinary English words:
i) A long vowel is realised as a short one when it occurs in word initial position.
ii) A consonant is fronted when it occurs before the vowel /i/ or /e/.

(c) Using distinctive features, formalize the following rules:

(i) The vowel /i/ is deleted before the vowel /e/.
A voiceless consonant becomes voiced between vowels.

A voiced bilabial fricative becomes a voiced bilabial stop when it occurs after a bilabial nasal.

Question 4

a) In Southern Kongo/Kikongo, a Bantu language spoken in Angola, the non-palatal segments [t, s, and 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”
- [zena] “to cut”
- [ʒima] “to stretch”
- [kasu] “emaciation”
- [tʃiba] “banana”
- [zevo] “then”
- [aʃimola] “alms”
- [kunezulu] “to heaven”
- [tanu] “five”

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

- [t] - [tʃ]
- [s] - [ʃ]
- [z] - [ʒ] (6)

ii) Which phones should be used as the underlying phoneme for each pair? State the reasons for your choice. (8)

b) The following words are all regular plural forms of English nouns:

cats
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? (2)
(iii) State in words the conditioning factors that account for the presence of the different allomorphs of the English plural morpheme. (6)

[25 marks]

SECTION C
MORPHOLOGY
Choose one question from this section

Question 5

(a) From the Swahili sentences below, work out the lexical and grammatical forms which correspond to the English elements in the English translation.

- waliondoka “they left”
- niliwapika “I cooked them”
- nitaondoka “I will leave”
- utawauza “You will sell them”
- tutapita “We will pass by”

(b) Consider the following data from Sierra Popoluca (spoken in Mexico):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Sierra Popoluca 1</th>
<th>Sierra Popoluca 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“cornfield”</td>
<td>ka:ma</td>
<td>ko:ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“my cornfield”</td>
<td>anjka:ma</td>
<td>anjko:ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“your cornfield”</td>
<td>inkama</td>
<td>iŋko:ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“hair”</td>
<td>way</td>
<td>ka:pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“my hair”</td>
<td>anŋway</td>
<td>an汉族:pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“his hair”</td>
<td>iway</td>
<td>i汉族:pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“your hair”</td>
<td>iŋway</td>
<td>i汉族:pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“rabbit”</td>
<td>ko:ya</td>
<td>ko:ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“my rabbit”</td>
<td>anko:ya</td>
<td>anko:ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“his rabbit”</td>
<td>iko:ya</td>
<td>iko:ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“your rabbit”</td>
<td>iŋko:ya</td>
<td>iŋko:ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“sister-in-law”</td>
<td>ka:pay</td>
<td>ka:pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“my sister-in-law”</td>
<td>an汉族:pay</td>
<td>an汉族:pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“his sister-in-law”</td>
<td>i汉族:pay</td>
<td>i汉族:pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“your sister-in-law”</td>
<td>i汉族:pay</td>
<td>i汉族:pay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(i) Give the Sierra Popoluca morpheme which corresponds to the following English translation:

1. “my”
2. “his”
3. “your” (3)
ii) What type of affixes are the Sierra Popoluca morphemes in (i) above? (1)

iii) List all the other morphemes occurring in (b) above (Give the Sierra Popoluca morpheme and the English gloss). (8)

iv) Formulate a general statement about how to form the possessive form of nouns in Sierra Popoluca. (3)

[25 marks]

Question 6

(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 iciBemba 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?

1. They do not come
2. I will come
3. You (plural) come (9)

(b) Indicate the word formation process responsible for the creation of the following words:

i. street light
ii. Rob
iii. housekeep
iv. empty (Verb)

v. UK

[25 marks]
SECTION D
MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

Choose one question from this section

Question 7

a) Provide a full description of each of the sounds represented by the following phonetic symbols. Your description should include the place and manner of articulation as well as glottal activity.

[β] [t] [u] [u̯] (16)

b) Consider the following data from an African language called Maninka:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maninka</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bugo</td>
<td>'hit'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bugoli</td>
<td>'hitting'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dila</td>
<td>'repair'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dilali</td>
<td>'repairing'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>don</td>
<td>'come in'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>donnii</td>
<td>'coming in'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dumu</td>
<td>'eat'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dumuni</td>
<td>'eating'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gwen</td>
<td>'chase'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gwenni</td>
<td>'chasing'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

i) What are the two forms for the morpheme '−ing' in Maninka? (2)
ii) Can you predict which phonetic form will occur? If so, state the rule. (3)
iii) What are the '−ing' forms for the following verbs:

1. da    'lie down'
2. men   'hear' (4)
3. famu  'understand'
4. sunogo 'sleep'

Question 8

(a) Study the data from siSwati presented below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>siSwati</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d'ilit'a</td>
<td>'take down'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d'onsa</td>
<td>'pull'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d'inya</td>
<td>'be needy'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d'uma</td>
<td>'thunder'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d'uša</td>
<td>'refuse smth.'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lid'olo</td>
<td>'knee'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d'ula</td>
<td>'hit heavily'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d'ašula</td>
<td>'tear'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d'elela</td>
<td>'offend'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d'ad'e</td>
<td>'sister'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[25 marks]
i) On the basis of the data, are [6] and [m] separate phonemes or allophones of the same phoneme? If you think they are separate phonemes, provide evidence from the data. If you think they are allophones state their distribution.

   (6)

ii) Based on the same data, are the phones [d$^z$] and [d$^v$] separate phonemes of siSwati or are they allophones of the same phoneme. If you think they are separate phonemes, give your reasons. If you think they are allophones state their distribution.

   (5)

(b) i) The sounds [k] and [f] are associated with different orthographic representations (letters). For each sound, provide at least 4 different examples, from any language. In your examples, underline the part of the word that represents the [k] and the [f] sound.

   (8)

ii) The combination of letters gh can be pronounced in different ways. Provide a minimum of 4 different examples, from any language. For each word you find, indicate the sound that is represented by the combination gh.

   (6)

   [25Marks]