

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: May 2018

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS (Bantu)

COURSE NUMBER: AL 312

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

List Malcolm Guthrie's seven (7) criteria for identifying a language as Bantu. Give one (1) example of each of these criteria from a Bantu language or languages of your choice. For each of these criteria, state whether it is evidence for 1) genetic relatedness, 2) typological classification, 3) Universal Grammar, or any combination of these three. [25 marks]

Question 2

Define noun class systems, gender systems and case systems. For each of these systems, name any one (1) language that uses it. Describe how confusion about these systems has affected the linguistic analysis of Bantu languages by European scholars. [25 marks]

Question 3

Define Universal Grammar. How is Universal Grammar relevant to the study of Bantu linguistics? What are some of the pitfalls involved? [25 marks]

Question 4

Define language classification based on genetic relatedness and language classification based on linguistic typology. Describe two (2) ways in which these criteria have been used in the classification of African languages. [25 marks]

SECTION B

Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 5

What is the difference between conjunctive and disjunctive orthography in the writing systems of Bantu languages? Describe Malcolm Guthrie's two (2) criteria for word division in Bantu languages. Use examples from any Bantu language to illustrate your answer. Does Guthrie's system favor conjunctive or disjunctive orthography? [25 marks]

Question 6

Describe how the contributions of Martin Heinrich Karl Lichtenstein, Richard Lepsius and Wilhelm Heinrich Immanuel Bleek to the study of Bantu linguistics were influenced by the Hamitic Hypothesis. [25 marks]

Question 7

Describe the criteria, methods and systems of classifying Bantu languages developed by Malcolm Guthrie and Clement Martyn Doke. [25 marks]

Question 8

Describe the intellectual controversy between Joseph Greenberg and Ernst Oswald Johannes Westphal. What issues in the study of linguistics did it concern? What issues in the study of African languages did it concern? [25 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER