

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 2018**

**TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE
LINGUISTICS: WESTERN**

COURSE NUMBER: AL412/IDE-AL412

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. CHOOSE TWO QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A.**
 - 3. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION B.**
 - 4. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION C.**
 - 5. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.**
 - 6. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.**
 - 7. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**

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

SECTION A

(Answer Question One and any other Question from this section)

Question 1

- a) Consider the data below from five Romance languages:

Spanish	Sardinian	French	Portuguese	Rumanian
riβa	ripa	riv	riba	ripə 'embankment'
amiya	amika	ami	amiga	-- 'female friend'
kopa	kuppa	kup	kopa	kupə 'cup'
gota	gutta	gut	gota	gutə 'drop'

Now answer the following questions:

- i) Identify and write down the sound correspondences for each of the four items provided in the data. (5 marks)
- ii) For each set of sound correspondences you identified in (a), reconstruct the proto-sound. (5 marks)
- iii) According to O'Grady et al (1996), the Proto-Romance word for 'embankment' is */*ripa/*. State the phonological processes which took place during the evolution of the words in the following languages from Proto-Romance. If more than one process occurred, name them all in their order of occurrence:
 - a. Spanish;
 - b. French
 - c. Portuguese; and
 - d. Rumanian
 (8 marks)
- iv) List the remaining three Proto-Romance words on the basis of your reconstruction of the Proto-Romance sounds in (b) above. (3 marks)
- v) Giving reasons, state which of the five languages you consider to be...
 - a. the most innovative
 - b. the most conservative
 (4 marks)

[25 MARKS]

Question 2

Examine the data below from Bahasa Indonesia and do the tasks which follow:

	Simple form	Prefixed form
'throw'	lempar	məlempar
'feel'	rasa	mərasa
'convince'	yakin	məyakin
'cook'	masak	məmasak
'marry'	nikah	mənikah
'chat'	ngaco	məngaco
'sing'	ngaji	məngaji
'draw a picture'	gambar	mənggambar
'send'	irim	məngirim
'hear'	dəngar	məndəngar
'write'	tulis	mənulis
'help'	bantu	məmbantu
'hit'	pukul	məpukul
'sew'	dzahit	məndzahit
'note down'	tfatat	mənttfatat
'take'	ambil	məngambil
'fill up'	isi	məngisi
'invite'	undar	məngundar

- Use the internal method of reconstruction to suggest what the original form of the prefix might have been. (2 marks)
- Identify those words whose prefixes have undergone changes and give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms, to show how they have changed. (14 marks)
- Identify the words that have retained their original forms of prefixes and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. (9 marks)

Question 3

[25 MARKS]

- a) Examine the data below from Huli (spoken in Papua New Guinea) and do the tasks which follow:

A.	ebero	'I am coming'
	ebere	'you are coming'
	ibira	's(h)e is coming'

	ibiru	'I came'
	ibiri	'you came'
	ibija	's(h)e came'
B.	biraro	'I am sitting'
	birare	'you are sitting'
	birara	's(h)e is sitting'
	biraru	'I sat'
	birari	'you sat'
	biraja	's(h)e sat'
C.	wero	'I am putting'
	were	'you are putting'
	wira	's(h)e is putting'
	wiru	'I put'
	wija	's(h)e put'
	widaba	'put everyone!'
D.	homaro	'I am dying'
	homare	'you are dying'
	homara	's(h)e is dying'
	homaru	'I died'
	homari	'you died'
	homaja	's(h)e died'

- i) Reconstruct the original pronominal suffixes. (6 marks)
- ii) Reconstruct the original roots for the verbs; come, sit, put, and die. (4 marks)
- iii) Identify the words whose roots have undergone changes in (A) and then give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms to show why they have changed. (6 marks)
- iv) In the same category (A), identify the words that have retained their forms of roots and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. (6 marks)
- c) When might you want to use the method of Internal Reconstruction instead of the Comparative Method? (3 marks)

[25 MARKS]

SECTION B
(Choose one Question from this section)

Question 4

- a) Distinguish between the following types of sound change. Give for each argument an example from any language:

- i) apocope and syncope;
- ii) haplology and metathesis;
- iii) aphaeresis and prothesis;
- iv) phonetic unpacking and vowel breaking;
- v) assimilation and dissimilation.

(20 marks)

- b) What is phonetic fusion?

(5 marks)

[25 MARKS]

Question 5

Study the data provided below from four languages of the Tupi-Guarani family. Then do the tasks which follow:

GUARANI	TUPINAMBA	SIRIONO	GUARAYO	
kitʃi	kiti	kisi	kitʃi	'cut'
tʃi	tiŋ	sĩ	tʃi	'white'
meʔẽ	meʔeŋ	meẽ	meẽ	'give'
kwa	pwar	kwa	kwa	'tie'
ki	kib	ki	ki	'louse'
kiʔa	kiʔa	kia	kia	'dirty'

- i) Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the six items provided in the data. (6 marks)
- ii) Whenever a proto-word has changed, name the daughter language and state the phonological process which took place during the development of the daughter language from Proto-Tupi-Guarani. (14 marks)
- iii) Giving reasons for your opinion, state which of the three languages do you consider to be...
 - 1. the most conservative;
 - 2. the most innovative.
 (5 marks)

[25 MARKS]

SECTION C

(Choose one Question from this section)

Question 6

- a) With illustrations from English and/or any other Indo-European language, briefly explain what you understand by each of the following linguistic concepts in relation to language change:
- i) Borrowing
 - ii) Metaphor
 - iii) Taboos and euphemisms
- (15 marks)
- b) What do you think is the importance to historical linguistics of the fact that Sanskrit, Latin, and Greek were written languages? Would we have been able to make the same advances if they were not? (5 marks)
- c) How does typology contribute to our understanding of language change? (5 marks)

[25 MARKS]

Question 7

Consider the data below from Spanish, Sardinian, and Rumanian, all of which are Romance languages, and answer the questions which follow:

Spanish	Sardinian	Rumanian	
hilo	filu	fir	'thread'
vida	bita	vita	'life'
vino	binu	vin	'wine'
riva	riba	ripa	'bank'
rio	riu	riu	'river'
riso	rizu	ris	'laugh'

- iii) Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the six items provided in the data. (6 marks)
- iv) Wherever the proto-word has changed in the daughter language, name the daughter language and state the phonological process which took place during the development of the daughter language. If more than one process occurred, name them all in their order of occurrence. (8 marks)

v) Using distinctive features, formalise the processes that took place in the development of the following words from the proto language:

i) [vida] 'life' (Spanish).

ii) [ris] 'laugh' (Rumanian).

(7 marks)

vi) Given that [muta] is the Sardinian word for 'change', what would be its cognate form in

i) Spanish

ii) Rumanian

(4 marks)

[25 MARKS]