

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER
DECEMBER 2017

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS: WESTERN

COURSE CODE: IDE-AL311

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
4. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISM SHOULD BE
USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED

SECTION A

CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

QUESTION 1

- (a) What is typological classification? (3)
- (b) Describe typological classification based on phonological patterns and word order patterns. Use examples to support your answer. (18)
- (c) With the aid of examples, explain one weakness of typological classification. (4)

[25]

QUESTION 2

- (a) (i) List the parts of speech that were recognised by the Stoics. (4)
- (ii) State the three properties of letters which were recognised by the Stoics. (3)
- (b) (i) What language did Panini study? (1)
- (ii) Name the three most striking aspects of Panini's approach to the analysis of language. (3)
- (iii) Explain why Panini was motivated to write a grammar book. (4)
- (c) Describe the contributions made by Protagoras to linguistic science (7)
- (d) Define the term "grammar" as presented by Dionysius Thrax. (3)

[25]

QUESTION 3

- (a) Outline Priscian's eight word classes for Latin. (8)
- (b) Describe the following theories of language origin:
- (i) The ding-dong theory (5)
 - (ii) The bow-wow theory (4)
 - (iii) The yo-heave-ho theory (4)
 - (iv) The oral-gesture source (4)
- [25]

QUESTION 4

- (a) Define the following linguistic terms:
- (i) Innateness hypothesis (3)
 - (ii) Anomaly (3)
 - (iii) Universal tendencies (3)
 - (iv) Analogy (3)
 - (v) Absolute universals (3)
- (b) Describe the contributions made by Petrus Ramus to linguistic science. (6)
- (c) Name the four word classes which Varro observed that they could be distinguished according to their syntactic and semantic functions. (4)
- [25]

SECTION B

CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

QUESTION 5

- (a) J. J. Scaliger convincingly discarded two linguistic misconceptions which had threatened to distort studies in historical and comparative linguistics. Explain these misconceptions. (4)
- (b)(i) State the linguistic theory that Gottfried Wilhelm Von Leibniz originated. (2)
- (ii) Name and describe the method of language classification employed by Leibniz in historical and comparative linguistics. (5)
- (c) Outline three European language families recognised by Dante. (3)
- (d) Describe how Sir William Jones's contribution led to interest in historical and comparative linguistics in Europe. (5)
- (e) Describe the contributions made by the Neogrammarians in the development of historical and comparative linguistics. (6)
- [25]

QUESTION 6

- (a) (i) Describe August Schleicher's *Stammbaumtheorie* or genetic tree model theory. (6)
- (ii) Explain why Schleicher's *Stammbaumtheorie* was important to the development of European historical linguistics. (3)
- (b) Describe the contributions made by Jacob Grimm to comparative and historical linguistics. (10)
- (c) Describe the linguistic contribution by Edward Sapir. (6)
- [25]

QUESTION 7

- (a) Name three attributes of a linguistic sign stated by de Saussure (1916). (3)
- (b) Define the following terms;
- (i) Linguistic sign (2)
 - (ii) Linguistic structuralism (2)
 - (iii) Paradigmatic relations (3)
- (c) Describe paradigmatic relations of linguistic units at the following levels and provide examples in English to support your answer;
- (i) Phonological level (5)
 - (ii) Lexical level (5)
 - (iii) Grammatical level (5)
- [25]

QUESTION 8

- (a) Explain the following terms used by Noam Chomsky and furnish relevant examples to support your answer;
- (i) Language Acquisition Device (5)
 - (ii) Transformational rules (5)
- (b) With the aid of examples, critically discuss the following types of grammar:
- (i) Finite-state grammar (5)
 - (ii) Phrase structure grammar (10)
- [25]