

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER
NOVEMBER 2019

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL AND
COMPARATIVE INDO-EUROPEAN LINGUISTICS

COURSE NUMBER: IDE-ALL303

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.
 5. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED

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

SECTION A

Choose two questions from this section

Question 1

- a) Discuss briefly the contributions made by the following scholars towards the development of Historical and Comparative linguistics:
- i) Gottfield Wilhem Von Leibniz;
 - ii) J. J. Scaliger
 - iii) J. Von Herder
- (15 marks)
- b) Dante attributed the development of different languages to “the passage of time and the geographical dispersion of speakers of a given language”. Discuss.
- (10 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 2

- a) Sir Williams Jones’ February 1786 statement was a major break-through to the development of Historical and Comparative linguistics. Discuss. (10 Marks)
- b) Word order patterns in languages are derived from simple declarative sentences. With **two** examples, briefly discuss problems that would be encountered if any type of sentence would be used to suggest the word order pattern of English.
- (6 Marks)
- c) There are four morphological systems found in human languages. These are:
- i) Isolating or analytic
 - ii) Agglutinating/Agglutinative
 - iii) Synthetic or Inflectional
 - iv) Polysynthetic

Using relevant examples, explain how the following languages may be placed in more than one of the above morphological systems.

- 1. The English language
 - 2. Bantu languages
- (9marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 3

Discuss and critically evaluate Grimm’s Law then evaluate how Verner’s Law complemented it.

[25 Marks]

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) epenthesis and metathesis;
 - iii) aphaeresis and prothesis;
 - iv) phonetic unpacking and vowel breaking;
 - v) Regressive assimilation and progressive assimilation.
- (20 marks)

- b) What is phonetic fusion? (5 marks)

[25 Marks]

SECTION B

Choose two questions from this section

Question 5

- a) Describe two (2) strategies used in the reconstruction of proto sounds. (4 marks)
- b) Distinguish between the methods of internal reconstruction and that of comparative reconstruction. (3 marks)
- c) With the use of examples, distinguish between a proto language and an attested parent language. (5 marks)
- d) When listing the sound correspondences between languages that you are comparing, when might you use;
 - i) A zero morpheme (4 marks)
 - ii) A dash
- e) When reconstructing proto sounds, the phonemic inventory of the proto language being reconstructed should be taken into consideration. With illustrations, support the authenticity of this statement. (5 marks)
- f) What is the difference between fortition and lenition? (4 marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 6

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'

- ii) Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the six items provided in the data. (6 marks)
- iii) 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. (8 marks)
- iv) Using distinctive features, formalise the processes that took place in the development of the following words from the proto language:
- [vida] 'life' (Spanish).
 - [ris] 'laugh' (Rumanian). (7 marks)
- v) Given that [muta] is the Sardinian word for 'change', what would be its cognate form in
- Spanish
 - Rumanian (4 marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 7

- a) Examine the data below from Bislama (spoken in Vanuati) and do the tasks which follow:

Root		Transitive verb	
rit	'read'	ritim	'read'
bon	'burnt'	bonem	'burn'
smok	'smoke'	smokem	'smoke'
skras	'itch'	skrasem	'scratch'
slak	'loose'	slakem	'loosen'
stil	'steal'	stilim	'steal'
rus	'barbecue'	rusum	'barbecue'
tait	'tight'	taitem	'tighten'
boil	'boil'	boilem	'boil'
ciki	'cheeky'	cikim	'give cheek to'
pe	'payment'	pem	'pay for'
rere	'ready'	rerem	'prepare'
drai	'dry'	drain	'dry'
draun	'sink'	draunem	'push under water'
melek	'milk'	melekem	'squeeze liquid out of'
level	'level'	levelem	'level out'

- i) State what you think the original form of the transitive suffix might have been. (1 mark)

- ii) Identify the words whose suffixes have undergone changes and then give a step-by-step derivation of the surface forms to show why they have changed. (9 marks)
- iii) Identify the words that have retained their forms of suffixes and give good reasons why they have retained such forms. (12 marks)
- b) When might you want to use the method of Internal Reconstruction instead of the Comparative Method? (3 marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 8

The Family Tree Model and the Wave Theory Model are both used in representing relationship between languages. Discuss these two models, providing evidence for each one of them. Which model do you think is more plausible and why?

[25 Marks]