

**UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER
JANUARY 2020**

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

COURSE NUMBER: IDE-AL412

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION**
 - 3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISM
SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.**
 - 4. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED**

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

SECTION A
LANGUAGE CHANGE
Choose one question from this section

Question 1

With illustrations from any language, discuss the following linguistic terms and concepts:

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| i) | Lenition; | (3 marks) |
| ii) | Phonetic unpacking; | (3 marks) |
| iii) | Metathesis; | (3 marks) |
| iv) | Phoneme space; | (5 marks) |
| v) | Partial progressive assimilation; | (3 marks) |
| vi) | Haplology; | (3 marks) |
| vii) | Unconditioned sound change; | (3 marks) |
| viii) | Prothesis | (2 marks) |

[25 Marks]

Question 2

- 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 | (5 marks) |
| ii) | Folk Etymology | (6 marks) |

- b) By making use of examples, discuss compensatory lengthening. (5 marks)

- c) Consider the data below from Proto-Slavic and Bulgarian and do the tasks which follow:

Proto-Slavic	Bulgarian
*gladuka	glatkə
*blizuka	bliskə
*lovuka	lofkə

- i) Specify the changes between Proto-Slavic and Bulgarian. (3 marks)
- ii) Name the phonological processes, in their order, which took place in the derivation of the Bulgarian forms, and briefly account for the order you suggest. (6 marks)

[25 Marks]

SECTION B COMPARATIVE RECONSTRUCTION

Choose one question from this section

Question 3

Consider the data below from three Middle-Indic languages and answer the questions which follow:

Magadhi Prakrit	Pali	Maharastri Prakrit	
1. abala	apara	avara	'other'
2. diba	dipa	diva	'lamp'
3. hasta	hatt ^h a	hatt ^h a	'hand'
4. loga	loka	loa	'world'
5. nala	rara	nara	'man'
6. nisp ^h ala	nipp ^h ala	nipp ^h ala	'fruitless'
7. pask ^h aladi	pakk ^h alati	pakk ^h alai	'he stumbles'
8. pida	pita	pia	'father'
9. puspa	pupp ^h a	pupp ^h a	'flower'

- Using the comparative method, reconstruct proto-words for each of the nine items provided in the data. (9 marks)
- Wherever 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-Middle Indic. (9 marks)
- Of the three languages, which do you consider to be
 - the most conservative;
 - the most innovative.
 (5 marks)

Give reasons for your opinion.

- Given that the Maharastri Prakrit word for 'dry' is [sukk^ha], what would be its cognate form in-
 - Pali;
 - Magadhi Prakrit?
 (2 marks)

[25 marks]

Question 4

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:

- a) Identify and write down the sound correspondences for each of the four items provided in the data. (5 marks)
- b) For each set of the sound correspondences you identified in (a), reconstruct the proto-sound. (5 marks)
- c) Wherever, you have reconstructed the same sound for different correspondence sets, justify your reason for doing so. (6 marks)
- d) 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:
 - i) Spanish;
 - ii) French (6 marks)
 - iii) Portuguese; and
- e) List the remaining three Proto-Romance words on the basis of your reconstruction of the Proto-Romance sounds in (b) above. (3 marks)

[25 Marks]

SECTION C
INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION
Choose one question from this section

Question 5

Examine the data below from Bahasa Indonesia in which the active and passive verb forms are presented and do the tasks which follow:

Active	Passive	
məmbuka	dibuka	'open'
məndapat	didapat	'get'
mənjelaskan	dijelaskan	'explain'
məngosok	digosok	'rub'
məmərlukan	dipərlukan	'need'
mənanam	ditanam	'plant'
məjaraj	dikaraj	'compose'
məjurus	diurus	'arrange'
məneja	dieja	'spell'
məjambil	diambil	'take'
məjikat	diikat	'tie'
məjerikan	dijərikan	'give a fright'

məŋhapuskan

dihapuskan

‘wipe’

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

[25 Marks]

Question 6

- a) Consider the data provided below from Mbabaram, a language spoken in North Queensland Australia:

*wula	→	lo	‘die’
*ŋali	→	li	‘we’
*guju	→	ju	‘fish’
*guwa	→	wo	‘west’
*bamba	→	mba	‘belly’
*wuna	→	no	‘lie down’
*diba	→	be	‘liver’
*gumbi	→	mbi	‘penis’
*naga	→	ga	‘east’
*nulu	→	lu	‘he’

- i) Some word-final /a/ became [e], some became [o], and some remained unchanged. What were the conditioning factors? (8 marks)

- ii) Initial syllables were lost. Did this change take place before or after the changes affecting the final /a/? Explain with relevant examples from the data. (4 marks)

- b) Consider the data on different verb forms (labelled Form A and Form B) in Samoan and do the tasks that follow.

Form A	Gloss	Form B
ʔole	‘cheat’	ʔolegia
faʔaee	‘put’	faʔaeetia
fua	‘weigh’	fuatia
faʔafoi	‘send back’	faʔafoisia
gau	‘break’	gausia
faitau	‘read’	faitaulia

sila	'see'	silafia
utu	'fetch water'	utufia
sio	'surround'	siomia
inu	'drink'	inumia

Use the method of internal reconstruction to do the following tasks:

- Reconstruct the original form of the Form B affix. (1 mark)
 - Reconstruct the original forms for all the verbs. (5 marks)
 - Given that the Form B word for 'close' is /punitia/, can you predict the Form A counterpart? Why? (2 marks)
 - From which forms can the base forms be determined? (2 marks)
- c) When might you want to use the method of Internal Reconstruction instead of the Comparative method of Reconstruction (3 marks)

SECTION D MISCELENEOUS

Choose one question from this section

Question 7

- "There is no precise figure for the number of languages spoken in the world today". Provide evidence to support the authenticity of this statement along with relevant examples. (15 marks)
- 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)
- How does typology contribute to our understanding of language change? (5 marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 8

- Semantics does contribute to language change. With illustrations from any language, discuss the following terms in relation to language change:
 - semantic broadening (4 marks)
 - semantic shift (4 marks)

- b) Does a proto-language die out and then get replaced by its daughter languages? What is, for example, the nature of the relationship between Latin and Spanish?
(5 marks)
- c) The scope of historical linguistics can be viewed from both a practical point and from a theoretical perspective. Discuss.
(8 marks)
- d) Name the case that was used to mark (or indicate) each of the following NP's in Old English:
a. indirect object NP;
b. direct object NP;
c. subject NP; and
d. possessive NP
(4 marks)

[25 Marks]