

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2016
B. A. DEGREE**

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

COURSE NUMBER: AL210/IDE-AL210

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A.**
 - 3. CHOOSE ONE (1) QUESTION FROM SECTION B**
 - 4. CHOOSE ONE (1) QUESTION FROM SECTION C**
 - 5. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISM SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.**

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

SECTION A

PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY

*Answer Question 1 and any other question from this section***Question 1**

- a) Each of the languages below illustrates a different kind of pattern of word stress. Stress is indicated by either an acute accent mark or a grave accent over the vowel of the syllable that is stressed. Describe (in words) the stress pattern of each language.

1. Malayalam

káratī	'bear'	
kará:rə	'agreement'	
máranam	'death'	(4 marks)
ká:ranam	'reason'	
páttanam	'town'	
pattá:lam	'army'	

2. Diyari

(i) kána	'man'	
(ii) nánda	'to hit'	
(iii) múla	'nose'	
(iv) wilapína	'old woman'	(5 marks)
(v) ṛándawálka	'to close'	
(vi) pínadu	'old man'	
(vii) púḷuru	'mud'	
(viii) mánkaṛa	'girl'	
(ix) kánini	'mother's mother'	

3. Araucanian

tipánto	'year'	
wulé	'tomorrow'	
elúmuyù	'give us'	(4 marks)
elúaènew	'he will give me'	
kimúbalùwulèy	'he pretended not to know'	

b) Using hypothetical examples, give a brief description of the following linguistic terms as used in stress assignment:

- i) A degenerate foot
- ii) Syllable weight
- iii) An trochaic foot
- iv) An extrametrical foot

(12 marks)

[25 Marks]

Question 2

(a) Using illustrations, give a brief description of the following linguistic terms and concepts:

- i) tone melody; (4)
- ii) contour tone; (4)
- iii) Obligatory Contour Principle; and (4)
- iv) Well Formedness condition (4)

b) The following examples illustrate vowel elision in Yoruba, a Kwa language mainly spoken in Nigeria and Benin:

- | | | | | | |
|----|----|-----|---|------|------------------|
| 1. | kó | èkǒ | → | kêkǒ | ‘learn a lesson’ |
| 2. | rí | òbē | → | rôbē | ‘see a knife’ |
| 3. | rí | apò | → | râpò | ‘see a bag’ |

Using an Autosegmental analysis, account for the tone of the elided vowel (underlined) on the connected speech form in examples 1 and 3. (9)

[25 Marks]

Question 3

a) Briefly explain how information which could have been previously expressed through the use of case inflections could now be conveyed in Modern English.

(3 marks)

b) Consider the following Modern English sentence:

‘Brandy and her husband’s cousin took the child to the doctor.’

i) Indicate the part of the above sentence which is:

- 1. the subject NP;
- 2. the genitive NP;
- 3. the direct object NP; and

(4 marks)

4. the indirect object NP.

- ii) Name the case which was used in Old English to indicate each of the NP's listed in (i) (1-4) above. (4 marks)
- a) Assign a morphological tree structure to each of the following words:
- (i) green house
 - (ii) inconsiderate (8 marks)
 - (iii) uncouth
 - (iv) impossible
- b) Explain each of the following linguistic terms. Support your explanation with one example from any language:
- (i) derivational morpheme
 - (ii) suppletion (6 marks)
 - (iii) blending

[25 Marks]

Syntax and Semantics

Answer *one question* from Section B and *one question* from Section C. Read the instructions carefully before you start writing.

Section B: Syntax

Question 4

- i) Give two (2) examples of syntactic constructions in English that involve subject-verb inversion. [2 marks]
- ii) Give one (1) English example of each of the syntactic constructions that you gave in (i). [2 marks]
- iii) Draw a complete X-bar theoretic phrase structure tree for each of the example sentences you gave in (ii). Indicate all instances of movement. [21 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

Question 5

i) Give two (2) examples of syntactic constructions in English that involve a discontinuous dependency. [2 marks]

ii) Give one (1) English example of each of the syntactic constructions that you gave in (i). [2 marks]

iii) Draw a complete X-bar theoretic phrase structure tree for each of the example sentences you gave in (ii). Indicate all instances of movement. [21 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

Section C: Semantics and Information Structure**Question 6**

Give one (1) example of each of the following from any language or languages, except English. Justify your choice of examples. Do not use examples from any textbook.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| a) old information that is also a topic | [5 marks] |
| b) new information that is also a topic | [5 marks] |
| c) old information that is also referential | [5 marks] |
| d) new information that is also definite | [5 marks] |
| e) old information that is also indefinite | [5 marks] |

[Total: 25 marks]

Question 7

i) Define each of the following terms. For each term, state how it may be encoded in any language of your choice. Do not use examples from any textbook.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| a) referential | [6 marks] |
| b) non-referential | [6 marks] |
| c) contrastive | [6 marks] |
| d) indefinite | [6 marks] |

[24 marks + 1 style mark = 25 marks total]

End of Question Paper