

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: DECEMBER 2018
B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS

COURSE NUMBER: AL 311 (Full Time)

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.**

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

SECTION A

Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 1

Name four (4) scholars from at least two (2) different cultures who contributed to the history of Western linguistics in the area of Universal Grammar. Describe the contribution to this area of each scholar that you name. [25 marks]

Question 2

Name and define four (4) separate types of writing system. Give one (1) example of each of the four types that you have named. [25 marks]

Question 3

Name four (4) cultures that have made contributions to the history of Western Linguistics. Describe one (1) motivation for the study of language and linguistics found in each culture that you name. [25 marks]

Question 4

Name and define Priscian's parts of speech. Compare and contrast Priscian's parts of speech with those of Dionysius Thrax. How do the languages studied by Priscian and Dionysius Thrax affect their choice of parts of speech? [25 marks]

SECTION B

Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 5

Who was Sir William Jones? Describe three (3) of his ideas that remain fundamental assumptions of Western historical linguistics as practiced in the 21st century. [25 marks]

Question 6

Name four (4) scholars from at least two (2) different cultures who contributed to the history of Western linguistics in the area of phonetics and phonology. Describe the contribution to these areas of each scholar that you name. [25 marks]

Question 7

Describe one (1) of Joseph Greenberg's contributions to linguistic typology. Pick any two (2) languages. For each of these languages, state the category of Greenberg's typology that it belongs to. Illustrate your answer with at least one (1) example from each language. Justify your choice of examples. [25 marks]

Question 8

Who was Dante Alighieri? Name one (1) book that he wrote that has affected Western linguistics. Compare and contrast Dante Alighieri's attitudes towards indigenous languages with those of medieval European philosophers who studied language. [25 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER