



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR
ACADEMICS, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER REGULAR MAIN
EXAMINATION

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: LIN325

**COURSE TITLE: COMPARATIVE STUDY OF
LANGUAGE**

DATE: 15/04/24

TIME: 2pm- 5pm

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

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THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE PRINTED PAGES

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INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer Question **ONE** and any other **TWO** questions.

Question One:

- a) State any **four** benefits of studying comparison of languages. (4 Marks)
- b) Comparative reconstruction of the “proto” language is founded on **two** principles. Discuss these principles and give appropriate illustrations in each case. (12 Marks)
- c) i) Explain the term *language shift*. (2 Marks)
 ii) Discuss the terms *narrowing* and *expansion* of meaning as used in the study of language and provide two illustrations for each. (12 Marks)

Question Two:

Carefully study the data below from three different languages.

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>gloss</u>
cantare	cantar	chanter	sing
catena	cadena	chaine	chain
caro	caro	cher	dear
cavallo	caballo	cheval	horse

All the initial sounds in languages A and B are all [k] sounds while in language C the initial sounds are all [ʃ] sounds.

- a) Identify the most likely proto initial sound for each word. (8 Marks)
- b) Explain the **two** principles that you used to identify the most likely proto sounds from the data above. (10 Marks)
- c) Define the term philology. (2 Marks)

Question Three

- a) Here is some data from four Polynesian languages. Study it carefully and answer the question that follows it.

Maori	Hawaiian	Samoan	Fiji	Gloss
pou	pou	pou	bou	post
tapu	kapu	tapu	tabu	forbidden
hono	hono	fono	vono	stay
taŋi	kani	taŋi	taŋi	cry
marama	malama	malama	mahama	light/ moon

Identify the proto sound for each word. (5 Marks)

- b) Define the term *language planning*. (2 Marks)
 c) Illustrate the significance of *language planning*. (4 Marks)
 d) Evaluate any **three** factors that may lead to *language shift*. (9 Marks)

Question Four:

Curtis (quoted in Aitchison, 2001) describes a major goal of Historical Linguistics as follows: "A principle goal of this science is to reconstruct the full, pure forms of an original stage from the variously disfigured and mutilated forms which are attested in individual languages."

- a) In light of the above citation, discuss any **three** factors that may lead to a *disfigured* and *mutilated* language. (12 Marks)
 b) Differentiate between *language loss* and *language death*. (8 Marks)

Question Five:

- a) Identify any **three** areas of study to consider when comparing any two African languages of your choice. Illustrate with data from the languages stated in each case. (12 Marks)

Kiswahili is an *agglutinating* language while English is *isolating*. Demonstrate this assertion by providing any **two** examples in each case. (8 Marks)