Scott Christian UNIVERSITY

A Dynamic Centre of Academic Excellence

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2020 SEMESTER

COURSE CODE: ENG 120

COURSE TITLE: A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

TIME : 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of 2 sections, A and B. Answer **all** questions in Section A and **any 2** from section B. Each question is 20 marks.

SECTION A (20 Mks)

Answer **ALL** questions in this section.

1 a) i) Define historical linguistics? (1Mk)

ii) What is comparative linguistics? (1Mk)

b i) Explain one advantage of Historical and Comparative Linguistics to linguists. (2Mks)

ii) State one shortcoming of Historical and Comparative Linguistics (2Mks)

c) Identify any four kinds of linguistic changes that occur in language (4Mks)

d) Name and explain why changes occur in languages. (6Mks).

e) Outline 4 situations in which languages can share a set of words that are individually similar in both sound and meaning. (4Mks)

SECTION B (40 Mks)

Answer <u>any 2</u> questions from this section.

2) Using examples, explain the following comparative method techniques used by Historical and Comparative Linguists:

a) Unconditioned sound change. (2Mks)
   i) Majority Rule Principle (3Mks)
   ii) Naturalness (3Mks)
b) Conditioned Sound change (1Mk)
   i) Palatalization (3Mks)
   ii) Vowel deletion or reduction (3Mks)
   iii) Voice assimilation (3Mks)
c) Describe the general observations on sound that led to the formulation of Grimm's Law. (2Mks)

3 a) Name any 3 types of language families of the world. (3Mks)

b) Explain genetic classification of languages. (1Mk)

c) Name and illustrate 4 linguistic traits used to classify languages. (16 Mks)

4 a) Explain the major causes of the changes that occured in the English language (1400-1700 to the present). (3Mks)

b) From which Proto Language did the English language descend? (1Mk)

c) Explain the development of Early Modern English (1400-1700) to the present English under **any 4** of the following headings:

   i) Phonetic changes: loss and addition of phonemes (4Mks)
   ii) Phonological changes (4Mks)
   iii) Great Vowel Shift (4Mks)
   iv) Syntactic changes 4Mks)
   v) Lexical changes (4Mks)
   vi) Morphological changes (4Mks)

5 a) Describe 2 factors that contribute to a language becoming a dialect (2Mks).

b) Explain the relationship between a dialect and a cognate. (2Mks)

c) Using at least 2 exmples, contrast British English and American English using the following linguistic areas:

i) pronunciation (4Mks)

ii) grammar (4Mks)

iii) spelling (4Mks)

iv) vocabulary (2Mks)

d) Give 2 differences between British English and American English. (2Mks)

6. Study the following data from dialects of a Slavic language and answer the questions that follow (20 Mks).

Word meaning	**L1**	**L2**
clever	lovuka	lofkə
smooth	gladuka	glatkə
burning hot	ʒeʒika	ʒeʃ kə
short	kratuka	kratkə
near	blizuka	bliskə

a) Identify all the sound correspondences. (4Mks)

b) Reorganize the sounds into nonproblematic and problematic sounds. (4Mks)

c) Describe the 3 sound changes that take place in the data. (9Mks)

d) i) Which dialect is the earlier form? (1Mk)

ii) Give reasons for your answer. (2Mks)