

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION  
(ARTS)**

**ENGL 351: HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS**

**STREAMS: BED(ARTS) SB**

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

**DAY/DATE: TUESDAY 30/03/2021**

**8.30 A.M – 10.30 A.M**

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Answer three questions only**

**Question one is compulsory**

1. (a) Distinguish between diachronic and synchronic study of language. [4 marks]
- (b) Explain the following concepts as used in historical and comparative linguistics.
  - (i) Proto language [2 marks]
  - (ii) Language cognates [2 marks]
  - (iii) Lexicostatistics [2 marks]
- (c) With the aid of a diagram, expound on the following linguistic concepts.
  - (i) The family tree model [12 marks]
  - (ii) The wave model [8 marks]
2. Discuss the following sound change laws
  - (a) Grimm's law [8 marks]
  - (b) Verner's law [6 marks]
  - (c) Dahl's law [6 marks]

3. (a) With appropriate examples, discuss the key components of comparative reconstruction as a method in historical and comparative linguistics. [10 marks]
- (b) Reconstruct the proto language from the following data. [10 marks]

A	B	C	D	Gloss
Kapra	Kabra	Kabra	SEvA()	Goat
Karo	Karo	Karu	SEA	Dear
Karo	Kabo	Karu	SEf	Head,top
Karne	Karne	Karne	SEA	Meat,flesh
Karne	Kan	Ka)w	SjE)	dog

4. Discuss the concept linguistic universals as used in historical and comparative linguistics. [20 marks]
5. Expound on the causes of language change. [20 marks]
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