

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE  
OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

ENGL 351: HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS

STREAMS: BED (ARTS)

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY/DATE: THURSDAY 05/12/2019

11.30 A.M. – 1.30 P.M.

**INSTRUCTIONS: Answer THREE questions. Question ONE is compulsory**

1. (a) Distinguish between a diachronic and synchronic study of language (4 marks)
- (b) Explain what the following concepts imply
  - i) Proto-language (2 marks)
  - ii) Cognates (2 marks)
  - iii) Language family (2 marks)
- (c) With the aid of a diagram, discuss what is implied by
  - i) Family tree model (10 marks)
  - ii) The wave model (10 marks)
2. (a) What is a typological language classification (10 marks)
- (b) Using appropriate examples, describe the following sound changes
  - (i) Assimilation (5 marks)
  - (ii) Segment Loss (5 marks)
3. Discuss five kinds of linguistic changes (20 marks)
4. (a) Discuss the following language types. Give examples of each
  - i) Analytical languages (5 marks)

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- ii) Inflecting languages (5 marks)
  - (b) Explain the following
    - (i) Regular sound changes (5 marks)
    - (ii) Irregular sound changes (5 marks)
  - 5. With appropriate examples, discuss
    - i) Genetic language acquisition (10 marks)
    - ii) Aerial language classification (10 marks)
  - 6. Discuss the reasons for unpredictable and unconstant rate of language change. Give examples where possible (20 marks)
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