

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
RESIT/SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS**

EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF

ENGL 312: HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS

STREAMS: SB

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY/DATE: WEDNESDAY 25/07/2018

2.30 A.M – 4.30 P.M

INSTRUCTION:

- **Answer three questions in all. Question one is compulsory**

1. (a) Name four families of African languages [4marks]
(b) Differentiate between historical linguistics and comparative linguistics. [6marks]
(c) Using a language family tree explain the idea that languages are developments of older languages. [10marks]
(d) Why is it important to study of a language? [10marks]
2. (a) Define the term language reconstruction and explain two of its functions. [8marks]
(b) With clear examples, discuss the method of comparative study of language. [12marks]
3. Discuss the tenets of four theories which influence the development of the study of language in modern times. [20marks]
4. (a) Using clear examples explain:
(i) The term great vowel shift in English language [8marks]

(ii) The main features of the following sound change laws: Grimm's law and Verner's law. [12marks]

5. (a) Using examples, explain what you understand by morphological change of language.

[8marks]

(b) With the aid of notations, describe six types of language sound change. [12marks]
