

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

EMBU CAMPUS

THIRD YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF  
EDUCATION (ARTS)

ENGL 312: HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS

STREAMS: BED (ARTS) Y3S1 (SB)

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY/DATE: MONDAY 6/08/2018

11.30 A.M - 1.30 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer **THREE** Questions in all
- Question **ONE** is compulsory

1. (a) Study the data below and then attempt the questions that follow

<b>Greek</b>	<b>Sanskrit</b>	<b>Latin</b>	<b>English</b>
Pater	Pitar	Pater	father
Phrater	Bhrater	Frater	Brother

- (i) What method in historical linguistics would you use to reconstruct the proto-language? [2 Marks]
- (ii) Reconstruct the original forms of the two words above showing clearly how you arrived at the forms. [4 Marks]
- (iii) What reason would you give for the resemblance in the data given. [2 Marks]
- (b) Using examples explain the following systems of typological classification. [12 Marks]
- (i) Morphological criteria
- (ii) Syntactic criteria
- (c) Using elaborate examples, discuss three reasons why languages may resemble. [10 Marks]

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2. (a) What do historical comparative linguists mean by ‘basic vocabulary’? [8 Marks]
- (b) Explain, giving appropriate examples why basic vocabulary items have a key theoretical role in the establishment of language families. [12 Marks]
3. Identify two questions addressed by original scholars in the field of historical and comparative linguistics and explain how they dealt with each of the identified questions. [20 Marks]
4. Using elaborate examples, discuss reasons why languages change. [20 Marks]
5. (a) Discuss the justification for a diachronic approach to the study of language, provide relevant examples from any Kenyan language. [10 Marks]
- (b) Using elaborate examples, discuss type of language change. [10 Marks]
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