

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

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

ENGL 312/ 351: HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS

STREAMS: Y3S1

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY/DATE: THURSDAY 13/12/2018

11.30 A.M – 1.30 P.M

INSTRUCTIONS

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

1. (a) Discuss the political and linguistic notions of what constitutes a language. [6 marks]
 - (b) Distinguish between synchronic and diachronic study of language. [4 marks]
 - (c) Discuss language classification according to the morphological typology. [20 marks]
 2. (a) Discuss any four reasons that necessitate language change. [8 marks]
 - (b) Explain the following concepts used in historical and comparative linguistics.
 - (i) Language cognates and language isolates. [4 marks]
 - (ii) Family tree and wave model [4 marks]
 - (iii) Glottochronology and lexicostatistics [4 marks]
 3. (a) Discuss the reasons that necessitate internal reconstruction. [8 marks]
 - (b) Study the following data and reconstruct the cognate sets showing how the proto forms are derived. [12 marks]
- | | | | |
|------|------|-------|-----|
| A | B | C | D |
| Wuze | Wuse | Wusse | Wuz |
| Roge | Roke | Rokke | Rog |

4. Discuss how lexical change occurs in language and illustrate your answers with appropriate examples. [20 marks]
5. (a) Discuss three implicational universals under the phonological typology. [9 marks]
(b) Discuss the wave theory showing how it differs from the comparative method.

[10

marks]
