



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2014/2015
INSTITUTIONAL BASED PROGRAMME (DECEMBER 2014 SESSION)
EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS
AEN 820: MORPHOLOGY

DATE: WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL 2015

TIME: 2.00 P.M. – 5.00 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question ONE and any other Two Questions.

Question One

- (a) How can we distinguish a compound word from a syntactic phrase? (6 marks)
- (b) Explain any three kinds of morphological properties that characterize inflection (6 marks)
- (c) Explain, with appropriate examples, Hockett's notion of word and paradigm. (8 marks)
- (d) Examine the following data then answer the questions that follow (Note: the period denotes a syllable boundary in the outputs enclosed in square brackets)

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|----------------|---|------------|--------------|
| (i) /N-kenda/ | → | [ŋge.nda] | 'I walk' |
| (ii) /N-teexa/ | → | [nde:.xa] | 'I boil' |
| (iii) /N-paxa/ | → | [mba.xa] | 'I ferment' |
| (iv) /N-lexa/ | → | [nde.xa] | 'I cry' |
| (v) /N-funa/ | → | [fu.na] | 'I break' |
| (vi) /N-βala/ | → | [mba.la] | 'I count' |
| (vii) /N-mala/ | → | [m̩.ma.la] | 'I complete' |

- (i) The [N] is both a morphological and phonological category; state the two forms (2 marks)
- (ii) Explain the phonologically conditioned allomorphy in (i, ii, & iii) (3 marks)
- (iii) What phonological factors are responsible for the similarity between the outputs in (ii) and those in (iv)? (2 marks)
- (iv) Explain the outputs in (v, vi, & vii) and account for the differences between them (3 marks)

Question Two

- (a) Explain the characteristics of Level 1 (one) and Level 2 affixes in Lexical Morphology
(10 marks)
- (b) Basing your argument on an African language, discuss the limitations of the Lexical Morphology model of word formation
(10 marks)

Question Three

Discuss the interaction of morphology and syntax in a language other than English based on the assignment of the following syntactic functions;

- (i) Number (ii) Tense (iii) Case (iv) Person (v) Aspect

(20 Marks)

Question Four

- (a) Use specific examples to show that reduplication as a word-formation process is constrained by morphology, phonology and semantics
(10 marks)
- (b) Discuss how coinage arising from advancements in ICT have led to lexical expansion in a language of your choice.
(10 marks)

Question Five

Discuss any five linguistic challenges that morphologists face in the course of their work.

(20 Marks)