UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

MAIN EXAMINATION

2007-2008

TITLE OF PAPER

PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

COURSE NUMBER

ENG402: HUMANITIES/IDE/EDUCATION

TIME ALLOWED

2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS IN ALL
- 2. EACH QUESTION IS WOTH 20 MARKS
- 3. WRITE CLEARLY AND NEATLY
- 4. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR POOR EXPRESSION AND POOR GRAMMAR

This paper is not to be opened until permission has been given by the invigilator.

1.

- a) Define Psycholinguistics. Your definition must show how Psycholinguistics relates to other fields. (10)
- b) Language disorder can either be acquired or developmental. Explain this distinction and give examples. (10)
- 2. Outline the key stages of first language acquisition. Discus at least five factors that can assist, as well as those that can slow down the natural process of acquiring language.

(20)

3. Discuss Stephen Krashen's theory of second language learning/acquisition. How successfully do you think this theory explains the process of second language learning? You may wish to draw examples from your own experience.

(20)

- 4. The learning/acquisition of a languages results in the development of a mental lexicon. Briefly explain what a mental lexicon is and how it has been explained in the context of one acquiring two or more languages. (20)
- 5. The process of language learning means learning how to read, recognize words both spoken and written, retrieve the words and use them to communicate. With reference to the models we discussed in class, explain how users of a language
 - a. recognize words.
 - b. read words (20)

6. How would you argue that your learning of the course (Principles of Psycholinguistics) has increased your understanding of how language learning takes place? What knowledge has this experience given you to make you an effective teacher of a language to both young and older language learners.

(20)