

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION

MAY 2011

- TITLE OF PAPER:** PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLINGUISTICS
- COURSE CODE:** ENG 402
- TIME ALLOWED:** TWO (2) HOURS
- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. THIS PAPER HAS FOUR (4) QUESTIONS.
 2. ANSWER **TWO** (2) QUESTIONS
 2. QUESTION **ONE** (1) IS COMPULSORY AND IS WORTH **40** MARKS.
 3. CHOOSE THE SECOND QUESTION FROM QUESTIONS 2 TO 4. THESE ARE WORTH **20** MARKS EACH.
 4. PROPER USE OF LANGUAGE IS A REQUIREMENT.

This paper should not be opened until permission has been granted by the invigilator.

Question 1 (Compulsory)

- a) Psycholinguistics is a multi-disciplinary field because it involves information from other disciplines. Explain why neuro-science and linguistics are essential in the study of psycholinguistics. (10 marks)
- b) What is interlanguage? Briefly discuss its characteristics. (10 marks)
- c) Discuss the location and language functions of the frontal lobes and temporal lobes. (10marks)
- d) (i) What is the distinction between competence and performance? (5marks)
- (ii) State five language universals that support the existence of Universal Grammar (UG). (5 marks)
- [40 marks]

Question 2

Show how the following provide evidence for brain hemisphere lateralization:

- a) Split - brain patients (10 marks)
- b) The Wada test (10 marks)
- [20 marks]

Question 3

Explain how the following factors affect the acquisition of a second language:

- a) Cognitive factors
- b) Personality factors
- c) Motivation
- d) Individual factors

[20 marks]

Question 4

Describe how the 'Language Switchboard' explains the language processing procedure. Your discussion should show knowledge of the anatomical structure of the human brain.

[20 marks]

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SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

JULY 2011

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Question 1 (Compulsory)

- a) Give a brief explanation of the following levels of the 'Speech Chain':
- i) Linguistic levels
 - ii) Physiological levels
- (10 marks)
- b) i) What is the significance of the critical period in child and adult language acquisition?
iii) Briefly describe the Language Acquisition Device (LAD).
- (10marks)
- c) State the location and functions of the Broca's Area and Wernicke's area. Explain clearly what happens when these areas are damaged.
- (10 marks)
- d) Briefly describe the distinction between the Innateness Theory and the Behaviorist Theory.
- (10 marks)
[40 marks]

Question 2

- a) What is brain lateralization? (5 marks)
- b) Describe 3 pieces of evidence for brain lateralization. (15 marks)
- [20 marks]

Question 3

- a) Discuss the two cognitive functions that are activated during the production and perception of linguistic signals. (10 marks)
- b) What are the channels that are significantly involved in the input – output events of the 'Language Switchboard'? (4 marks)
- c) What links the 'talking head' and the 'listening head' of the 'Speech Chain'? What is its function in both heads? (6 marks)
- [20 marks]

Question 4

Compare and contrast the stages of first language acquisition and second language acquisition.

[20 marks]