

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER – MAY 2009

TITLE OF PAPER: **SPECIAL EXAMINATION PAPER**
READINGS IN FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

COURSE NUMBER: **AL404/IDE - AL404**

TIME ALLOWED: **THREE (3) HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ONLY THREE QUESTIONS**
- 2. EVIDENCE OF WIDE READING ON EACH TOPIC WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER. IN ADDITION PARTICULAR CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN N OBSERVING THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSIONS AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE ANSWERS**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

Instructions: Answer any three Questions

QUESTION 1

With reference to H.D. Brown article **First Language Acquisition**, discuss fully the controversy surrounding the behaviourist versus nativist theories.

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

a) With reference to the article by Pease and Gleason entitled **Gaining Meaning: Semantic Development** (1985) explain fully any three of the following concepts in relation to the acquisition of language by children.

- i) referent
- ii) symbol
- iii) index
- iv) icon
- v) image

(15 Marks)

b) Basing your argument on Pease and Gleason do you think that comprehension and production are two separate models of competence? In what ways are they distinctly related.

(10 marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

What does Bowermann (1982) mean by reorganization?

(5 Marks)

With the aid of examples, discuss fully how children use the following in language acquisition;

- i) analysis of unanalyzed forms
- ii) replacement of one rule by another

(20 Marks)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

With reference to the longitudinal study on Anthony found in Snow's **Parent Child Interaction and the Development of Communicative Ability** (1984), explain what Snow considers to be the underlying principle of caretaker speech.

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 5

With reference to Trager – Flushberg's Putting Words Together: Morphology and Syntax in the preschool years (1985), discuss fully the two word utterance stage, focusing mainly on its structure and function