

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2012

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: SPECIAL EXAMINATION PAPER

COURSE NUMBER: AL404/IDE-AL404

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. CHOOSE TWO QUESTIONS FROM EACH SECTION.**
 - 3. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISMS SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.**
 - 4. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING, AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.**
 - 5. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**

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

SECTION A

FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Choose two questions from this section

Question 1

Here are two (paraphrased) views on language acquisition: “Infants must acquire the words of their language, but they bring the sentence with them” (Lila Gleitman).

“Less is more” (Elisa Newport)

Explain these two views, providing evidence for each of them. Which view do you think is more plausible, and why?

[25 MARKS]

Question 2

Compare and contrast the Behaviourist’s and Nativist’s approach to first language acquisition.

[25 MARKS]

Question 3

Discuss and critically evaluate Jean Piaget’s Cognitive Theory of Child Language Acquisition.

[25 MARKS]

Question 4

Compare and contrast language acquisition for a normal child and that of an Autistic child from the age of 6 months to 2 years.

[25 MARKS]

SECTION B
OPTIMALITY THEORY IN LANGUAGE
ACQUISITION

Choose two questions from this section

Question 5

Using an Optimality Theory analysis account for the following developmental error patterns:

- i) Reduction
- ii) Epenthesis
- iii) Coalescence

[25 MARKS]

Question 6

How does Optimality Theory account for intrachild variation? Present a tableau that assumes that the error patterns of reduction, epenthesis, and coalescence are produced by the same child

[25 MARKS]

Question 7

The constraints *COMPLEX, MAX, DEP, and UNIFORMITY may be used to account for error patterns during development. By means of re-ranking the same constraints account for the following output candidates for the word "swim":

- i) swiŋ
- ii) fiŋ
- iii) səwiŋ
- iv) siŋ

[25 MARKS]