

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2014
B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: SPECIAL EXAMINATION PAPER

COURSE NUMBER: AL418/IDE-AL418

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***Answer question 1 and any other question in 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**

Using examples from any language discuss the following questions and statements about language acquisition;

- i) Is language acquisition the same for all children? (3)
- ii) Do children copy adults as they learn the language? (4)
- iii) What is linguistic plasticity? (4)
- iv) How does mental retardation contribute to delays in language acquisition? (8)
- v) Acquisition is more advanced in the domain of perception than in production. Discuss. (6)

[25 Marks]**Question 4**

Autism and Dyslexia are some of the conditions found in developmentally disabled children. Discuss these two conditions and show how they may delay the process of child language acquisition.

[25 Marks]

SECTION B
OPTIMALITY THEORY IN LANGUAGE
ACQUISITION

Choose two questions from this section

Question 5

Discuss the following linguistic terms and concepts as used in Optimality Theory:

- i) Generator
- ii) Constraint hierarchy
- iii) Evaluator
- iv) Universality
- v) Constraint violability

[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]