UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 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

*Choose **two** questions from this section*

Question 1

Discuss the construct of 'stages' in language acquisition. Describe several good examples of potential stages. How do these stages differ from Piaget's notion of stages?

[25 Marks]

Question 2

The Imitation and Reinforcement Theories contribute to child language acquisition. Discuss and critically evaluate these two theories.

[25 Marks]

Question 3

Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy 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]

Question 4

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]

SECTION B

OPTIMALITY THEORY IN LANGUAGE

ACQUISITION

Choose two questions from this section

Question 5

a) Discuss two common developmental error patterns in child language acquisition

b) Using Optimality Theory, account for the error patterns you mentioned in (6 (a))

c) Markedness constaints dominate Faithfulness constraints in the early stages of language acquisition. Discuss

[25 Marks]

Question 6

The initial ranking of constraints in child language acquisition is Markedness constraints above Faithfulness constraints, and overtime the ranking is reversed. Use Optimality Theory to account for the authenticity of this statement.

[25 Marks]

Question 7

a) Using the constraints *COMPLEX, *S, MAX, and ONSET (a syllable must begin with an onset) account for the production of the word "blow" by the following children:

Child A	Child B	Child C
blo	bo	o

b) Account for the production of the words [blo] and [bo] in intrachild variation.

[25 Marks]