

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

AND

THE INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

2007

TITLE OF PAPER: PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

COURSE CODE: ENG 402

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS**
- 2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY 30 MARKS**
- 3. CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR GOOD ENGLISH, ORDERLY PRESENTATION AND ORIGINAL EXAMPLES**

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

QUESTION 1

Write brief, but informative notes on each of the following.

- a) Different types of language disorders
- b) Methods of psycholinguistic inquiry

(30)

QUESTION 2

Using the two conversations between a parent and their child (below), what do you notice about the parents' responding strategies to their children? How would you describe these interactions and styles? What significance might this have for language acquisition?

Child: cheese lada (family specific form)
Mother: cheese lada (family specific form)
Mother: and what else?
Child: an wice.
Mother: rice!
Child: I get [ʃ] (w)ann(a) get cheese & la
Mother: he knows you want a cheese enchilada...
Mother: what is this?
Mother: is that a bolt?
Child: uh huh.
Mother: yeah.
Child: dis can...
Mother: well try it.
Mother: there!
Mother: what color is that wrench?
Child: xxx.
Child: &o orange.
Mother: orange.
Mother: yeah.
Mother: is that your favorite color?
Child: I like black chelly beans.
Mother: you like black jelly beans?

Father: whatcha doing munch?
Child: hi.
Father: whatcha doing?
Child: let's play dis.

Child: let's play dis together.
Father: play this together?
Child: let's play together.
Father: okay.
Child: ride you up.
Child: airplane.
Child: ooom. (onomatopoeia)
Child: land in duh water.
Father: gonna land on the water?
Child: yeah.
Father: like the ones out there?
Child: yep.
Father: oh, here comes one right now.
Father: o:h.
Father: here he comes.
Father: what's he doing?
Child: um he's flying away.
Child: babye airplane.

(Source: CHILDES database. Full conversation available)

QUESTION 3

Outline the stages of first language acquisition. Which aspects of what is learned in human language is inborn/ innate/ hard-wired into the infant's brain structure, and what is learned through experience? (30)

QUESTION 4

Describe the different methods that have been used to study the brain. How helpful have these been for our understanding of the brain function and language processing? (30)