UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION

MAY 2009

TITLE OF PAPER:	**PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLINGUISTICS**
COURSE CODE:	**ENG 402**
TIME ALLOWED:	**TWO (2) HOURS**
INSTRUCTIONS:	**1. This paper has four questions**
	2. Question 1 is compulsory
	3. Choose one other question from question 2 to question 4
	4. All Questions are worth thirty (30) marks.
	5. The presentation of answers should follow linguistic conventions and appropriate language structures.
	6. Good language will attract credit.

This paper should not be opened until permission has been granted by the invigilator

Question 1 (Compulsory)

(a) Discuss in detail the following psycholinguistic factors that contribute to a good speech signal, and also assist us in understanding the physiological foundations of language:

(i)   articulatory factors
(ii)   physical factors
(iii)   perceptual factors

(7 marks)

(b) Write five (5) factors that support the existence of Universal Grammar (UG) in human beings as proposed by Noam Chomsky.

(5 marks)

(c) What is the distinction between competence and performance?

(5marks)

(d) Describe in detail the Dyscalculia Syndrome.

(10 marks)

(e) What is the significance of the Feedback Link shown in the Speech Chain - a diagrammatic representation of language processing?

(3 marks)

[30 marks]

Question 2

a) Discuss the factors that may impede or assist the acquisition of a second language both in adults and children.

(20 marks)

b) Discuss in detail the function of the Wernicke's area. Indicate its location, and explain what happens when such an area is damaged.

(10 marks)

[30 marks]

Question 3

a) Discuss in detail language processing as illustrated by the 'Speech Chain' (from Denes and Pinson 1963). Your answer should show your understanding of the anatomical structure of the brain, showing how specific structures are involved in the production and perception of speech.

(20 marks)

b) What are the main fibres connecting the left hemisphere with the right hemisphere, and what is their high function?

(2 marks)

c) Write three functions that are localised in the left hemisphere.

(3 marks)

d) What do you understand by Chomsky Language Acquisition Device (LAD)?

(5 marks)

[30 marks]

Question 4

a) Discuss the following hypotheses of the second language theory:

i)   The input-output hypothesis
ii)   The monitor hypothesis
iii)   The acquisition- learning hypothesis
iv)   The natural order hypothesis

(20 marks)

b) Define the "mental lexicon" and give five features of the mental lexicon.

(10 marks)

[30 marks]