

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

JULY 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. Question 1 is 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) What do you understand by the following levels that signify the characteristics of language observable behaviour as one of the elements of psycholinguistics?

- i) Language signal
- ii) Neurological activity
- iii) language system

(6marks)

b) Discuss the function of the Broca's Area, and explain in detail what happens when such an area is damaged?

(10 marks)

c) How do the following theories explain the concept of second language acquisition:

- i) The Affective Filter Hypothesis
- ii) The Behaviourist Hypothesis

(10 marks)

d) Describe in detail the Dyscalculia Syndrome.

(10 marks)

e) Explain briefly why the field of psycholinguistics involves the contribution from other fields such as psychology and neurology.

(4marks)

[30 marks]

Question 2

What do you understand by the concept of brain lateralization?

Discuss at least five (5) pieces of evidence that support this concept.

[30 marks]

Question 3

- a) Compare and contrast Chomsky's Critical Period Hypothesis and Selinker's Latent Period Hypothesis. (10 marks)
- b) Discuss in detail two of the following research and concept that support the presence of the Critical Period in child language acquisition:
 - i) Research on deaf population in Nicaragua (Judy Kegl: 1986)
 - ii) Research on Hawaiian Pidgin (Derek Bickerton: 1981)(20marks)
[30 marks]

Question 4

- a) Write three functions of the cortex. (3marks)
 - b) Write three (3) approaches used by neurologists to study the brain functions. Explain briefly how each is used. (7 marks)
 - c) Discuss in detail the five distinct stages of second language acquisition. Why do you think it is important to know these stages? (20 marks)
- [30 marks]**