

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION

MAY 2010

TITLE OF PAPER: ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDIES IV:
LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND LEARNING

COURSE CODE: E4P1

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:
1. This paper has six (6) questions, and two Pages.
 2. Answer three (3) questions in all.
 3. Question 1 is compulsory. Choose two (2) other questions from Questions 2 - 6.
 4. Question 1 is worth forty (40) marks and the others are worth thirty (30) marks each.
 5. 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 Wrinicke's Aphasia. (10 marks)
- (b) (i) What is the *critical period*? Give one piece of evidence that supports the existence of this period. (5 marks)
- (ii) Briefly describe the stages of first/child language acquisition. (5 marks)
- (c) Discuss the function of the following in language processing:
- (i) Feedback Link (2 marks)
 - (ii) Tympanic membrane (2 marks)
 - (iii) motor nerves (2 marks)
 - (iv) sensory nerves (2 marks)
 - (v) the thalamus (2 marks)
- (d) Discuss the Nativist Theory. (10 marks)

[40 marks]

Question 2

- (a) Draw the schematic structure of the 'speech chain' – a diagrammatic illustration of spoken language processing. (10 marks)
- (b) Discuss in detail the linguistic, physiological and acoustic levels of the speech chain from the generation to the perception of a spoken message. (20 marks)

[30 marks]

Question 3

Explain how the human body is physiologically adapted for language functions.

[30 marks]

Question 4

Discuss the cognitive and personal factors that may inhibit or lead to successful second language acquisition.

[30 marks]

Question 5

Discuss the following theories relating to the process of second language acquisition:

- (a) Affective-Filter Hypothesis
- (b) Interlanguage Theory
- (c) Monitor Model
- (d) Input-Output Hypothesis

[30 marks]

Question 6

What do you understand by *contrastive analysis* and *error analysis*? What is the distinction between the two?

[30 marks]