UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION

MAY 2010

TITLE OF PAPER: PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

COURSE CODE: ENG 402

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This paper has four (4) questions, and Two pages.

2. Question 1 is compulsory.

3. Choose one other question from Question 2 to Question 4.

4. Question 1 is worth forty (40) marks and Questions 2-4 are worth twenty (20) marks each.

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 the functions and state the location within the human brain of the following:

    (i) the frontal lobes   (5 marks)

    (ii) the temporal lobes.   (5 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 functions 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.
                                              (5 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.

                                                     (15 marks)

                                                     [20 marks]

1.

Question 3

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

[20 marks]

Question 4

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

    (a) Affective-Filter Hypothesis   (5 marks)

    (b) Interlanguage Theory   (5 marks)

    (c) Monitor Model/Hypothesis   (5 marks)

    (d) The Input-Output Hypothesis   (5 marks)

[20 marks]