

# UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION

DECEMBER 2012

**TITLE OF PAPER:** PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

**COURSE CODE:** ENG 402

**TIME ALLOWED:** TWO (2) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. THIS PAPER HAS FOUR (4) QUESTIONS.
2. ANSWER **TWO** (2) QUESTIONS
3. QUESTION **ONE** (1) IS COMPULSORY AND IS WORTH **(40)** MARKS.
4. CHOOSE THE SECOND QUESTION FROM QUESTIONS 2 TO 3. THESE ARE WORTH **20** MARKS EACH.
5. PROPER USE OF LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTIC CONVENTIONS ARE A REQUIREMENT WHERE NECESSARY.

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

### Question 1 (Compulsory)

a) Explain how the following factors may inhibit or promote the acquisition of a second language:

(i) Cognitive factors (5 marks)

(ii) Motivation (5 marks)

**(10 marks)**

b) How does neuroscience contribute to psycholinguistics?

**(10 marks)**

c) Explain in detail how the Broca's aphasia and language experiments carried out on split-brain patients provide evidence for brain hemisphere lateralization.

**(20 marks)**

**[40 marks]**

### Question 2

Discuss any **two** of the following theories of first and second language acquisition:

a) Innateness Theory (10 marks)

b) Critical Period Hypothesis (10 marks)

c) The Comprehensible Input Hypothesis (10 marks)

d) The Monitor Hypothesis (10 marks)

**[20 marks]**

### Question 3

a) Explain in detail the abstract activities that take place in the linguistic system during the generation, production, reception and perception of the spoken linguistic signal.

(10 marks)

b) Briefly explain the 5 stages of the acquisition process in adults acquiring a second language.

(10 marks)

**[20 marks]**

### Question 4

Give a brief description of the following?

(a) The cerebrum (2)

(b) Contralateral connections (2)

(c) Input and output events in the 'Language Switchboard' (2)

(d) Psycholinguistics (2)

(e) Corpus Callosum (2)

(f) Competence (2)

(g) Interlanguage (2)

(h) Mental lexicon (2)

(i) Behaviourism (2)

(j) Language acquisition and language learning (2)

**[20 marks]**