

# UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

JULY 2013

- 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) Distinguish between Chomsky's linguistic competence and linguistic performance.

(10 marks)

(b) Aitchison (2008) asserts that human beings are biologically endowed for language acquisition. Describe what she says about the function the mouth, lungs and brain to support her claim?

(15 marks)

(c) Discuss in detail Lenneberg's Critical Age Period Hypothesis.

(10 marks)

(d) Which connections are targeted by the Wada Test for language functions of the brain hemispheres? Explain why such connections are used in this experiment?

(5 marks)

**[40 marks]**

### **Question 2**

Describe the developmental stages of first language acquisition, and explain how these stages provide evidence of the innateness of child language acquisition.

**[20 marks]**

### **Question 3**

With an aid of a diagram, discuss the 'Speech Chain' model of language processing. Your discussion should reflect on the cortical structures that are involved in mediating the concrete and abstract functions of the brain.

**[20 marks]**

#### **Question 4**

- a) Universal grammar (2)
- b) Parietal lobes (2)
- c) Dyscalculia syndrome (2)
- d) The left cerebral hemisphere (2)
- e) The thalamus (2)
- f) The Feedback Link (2)
- g) Lateralization (2)
- h) Frontal lobes (2)
- i) Position Emission Technology (PET) Scans (2)
- j) Conduction aphasia (2)

**[20 marks]**