

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION**

**JULY 2014**

**TITLE OF PAPER: PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLINGUISTICS**

**COURSE CODE: ENG 402 / IDE-ENG 402**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. This paper has four (4) questions**
- 2. Question 1 is compulsory, and it is worth 30 marks.**
- 3. Choose one other question from questions 2 to 4.**  
**Each question is worth 20 marks**
- 4. Appropriate use of English and linguistic conventions is essential in this paper.**

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

**Question 1 (compulsory)**

- a) Explain in detail how the following disciplines contribute to psycholinguistics:
- (i) Neuroscience (10)
  - (ii) Sociolinguistics (10)
- b) Write 5 reasons that support the existence of language universals common across languages.

(10)

**[30 marks]**

**Question 2**

- a) Explain why Chomsky says that linguistic performance is not a perfect manifestation of the linguistic knowledge an individual possesses. Give at least 4 factors to support your answer.
- b) Explain how age plays an important role in language acquisition.

(10)

(10)

**[20 marks]**

**Question 3**

What do you understand by the following?

- a) Fossilization (5)
- b) The neurophysiological activity involved in language processing (5)
- c) The thalamus (5)
- d) The Dyscalculia syndrome (5)

**[20 marks]**

**Question 4**

Discuss how Judy Kegl's (1986) study on deaf Nicaraguans community provides recent evidence for the presence of a critical period in first language acquisition. **[20 marks]**