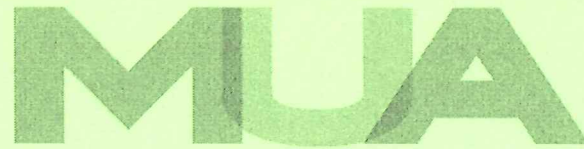


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**UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP**

**DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS**

ENG 321 : PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

DATE: 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.

## QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

### BEHAVIORAL THEORY

The Behavioral theory of language acquisition, sometimes called the Imitation Theory, is part of behaviorist theory. Behaviorism proposes that we are a product of our environment. Therefore, children have no internal mechanism or ability to develop language by themselves. BF Skinner (1957) suggests that children learn the language first by imitating their caregivers (usually parents) and then modifying their use of language due to **operant conditioning**.

Operant conditioning is a way of learning that focuses on the reward (positive reinforcement) or punishment (negative reinforcement) of desired or undesired behavior.

You can train a dog to sit by feeding it a treat when it obeys your commands, or you can stop it from sleeping on your bed by ignoring it or verbally discouraging it.

#### **How does operant conditioning apply to language acquisition?**

Skinner suggested that children first learn words and phrases from their caregivers or others around them and eventually try to say and use those words correctly. In this case, operant conditioning occurs when a caregiver responds to the child's attempt at using language. If the child uses language correctly, the caregiver may respond by telling the child they're clever or otherwise showing their approval. If the child makes a request, such as asking for food, the caregiver may reward the child by providing it. This is positive reinforcement.

If the child uses language incorrectly, makes a mistake, or is incoherent, they are more likely to receive negative reinforcement from the caregiver. They can be told they're wrong and then be corrected or simply be ignored. Negative reinforcement teaches the child which mistakes to avoid and how to correct them.

**Required:**

- a) Children have no internal mechanism or ability to develop language by themselves, asses the truth of this statement using behavioral theory. (6 marks)
- b) Using the knowledge of operant condition, evaluate its applicability in language learning (6 marks)
- c) Behavioral theory is one of theories of language learning, discuss other two theories (10 marks)
- d) Define psycholinguistic (3 marks)

#### QUESTION TWO

- a. Speech comprehension occurs once individual establish communication in terms of meaning, discuss? (10 marks)
- b. Without thought, language cannot form meaning assess the authenticity of such notion (5 marks)

#### QUESTION THREE

- a. Discuss the importance of studying psycholinguistics (5 marks)
- b. Assess factors contributed to emergence of psycholinguistics (10 marks)

#### QUESTION FOUR

Discuss the following processes involved in psycholinguistic inquiry

- i. Speech Comprehension Process (5 marks)
- ii. The Speech Production Processes (5marks)
- iii. Language Acquisition (5 marks)

**QUESTION FIVE**

- a. Analyze the biological foundation of language. (10 marks)
- b. Analyze How Language Relate to the Mind? (5 marks)

**QUESTION SIX**

- a. Define language (3 marks)
- b. Describe the features of language (12 marks)