POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION
BACHELOR OF ENGLISH
ESL 312S: ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
FIRST OPPORTUNITY EXAMINATION
NOVEMBER 2014

Time: 3 hours
Marks: 100
Paper: 1 of 1
Pages: 4 pages (including the cover page)

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Answer ALL the questions.
2. Read all the questions carefully before answering them.
3. Indicate whether you are a FM, PM or DE student on the cover of your answer booklet.
4. No dictionary may be used during the examination.
5. All questions should be answered in your examination answer script.
6. You will be penalized for mistakes in grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Examiner: Dr Haileleul Zeleke
Moderator: Prof J. Kangira
Part One: Say True or False [2 marks each]

1. In the Namibian rural context, English as a second language is merely used for wider communication, education, commerce and industry and socioeconomic mobility.

2. Compared to any second language, a national language is used chiefly for restricted and specialized activities like foreign travels, tourism and contact with foreign cultures.

3. In line with the Monitor Hypothesis, acquisition requires meaningful interactions in the target language in which speakers are concerned not with the messages they are conveying and understanding but with the form of their utterances.

4. Second Language Acquisition (SLA), as a discipline, does not study why only some learners appear to achieve native-like proficiency in more than one language.


6. For the behaviourists, errors are seen as first language habits interfering with the acquisition of second language habits.

7. The strong version of Contrastive Analysis theory maintains that one could make predictions about learning and hence about the success of language teaching materials based on a comparison between two languages.

8. In line with the Markedness Theory, when two phonemes are distinguished by the presence or absence of a single distinctive feature, one of them is said to be marked and the other unmarked for the feature in question.

9. In acquiring the phonological rules of English, the learner’s accent should never be considered as a problem as long as the learner delivers the message as correctly as possible.

10. Contrastive Analysis is a way of comparing languages in order to determine potential errors for the ultimate purpose of isolating what needs to be learned and what does not need to be learned in a second language learning situation.

(Total Marks: 20)
Part Two: Match the items under "A" with the items given under "B"  [2 marks each]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&quot;A&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;B&quot;</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Second language</td>
<td>A. Spanish speakers learning English in Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Foreign language</td>
<td>B. The Universal Grammar Hypothesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Interference</td>
<td>C. Interlanguage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Noam Chomsky</td>
<td>D. The influence of old habits when new ones are learned</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Larry Selinker</td>
<td>E. Punjabi speakers learning English in the UK.</td>
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</tbody>
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(Total Marks: 10)

Part Three: Read the following questions and give brief answers.  (10 marks each)

1. According to Krashen there are two independent systems of second language performance: 'the acquired system' and 'the learned system'. Give a brief description of each system and clearly distinguish their difference.

2. The contemporary competency based learning theories define 'competence' in relation to three attributes: knowledge, skill and attitude. Years ago, Chomsky made the definition of 'competence' in relation to 'performance.' Provide a brief definition of 'linguistic competence' in line with Chomsky's concept of 'linguistic performance.'

3. Ester is a second year student from Rehoboth acquiring English. Last year, she joined Polytechnic of Namibia. Read the following conversation between Ester and her classmate, Mukoroli, who is a second year student in the Department of Biotechnology. Do you think Ester has acquired the various tense forms? What other comments can you make on Ester's speech? Give your reason(s).

Mukoroli:  Hi, Ester! Why didn’t you come to class yesterday? What happened?

Ester:    Hello, Mukoroli! I am awfully sorry! Yesterday, we are in Eve-line Street for kapana and all that, nay. In the morning, my brain was having a pain. Me I do not like such questions.

Mukoroli: I could have joined you, my dear. Wow, that was really great!
You were dancing and drinking...mmm...ha...ha...ha!

Ester: I will not say we are drinking. You are only naughty, nay!

(Total Marks: 30)

Part Four: Critically read the argument below and write an expository essay.

In the Namibian context, English has already reached the level of a second language. Unlike in many African countries, it is not taught in schools as a foreign language. To learn English as a second language, students in Namibia have a better learning environment. Write an essay explaining the internal and external factors that influence the acquisition of English as second language in the Namibian school context.

(Total Marks: 40)

The End