



**NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

FACULTY NAME: COMMERCE, HUMAN SCIENCES AND EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT NAME: COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGES

QUALIFICATION: BACHELOR OF ENGLISH AND LINGUISTICS	
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DURATION: 3 HOURS	MARKS: 100

FIRST OPPORTUNITY EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER	
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THIS EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF 5 PAGES
(Including this front page)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer all the questions.
2. Write clearly and neatly.

PERMISSIBLE MATERIALS

1. Examination paper
2. Examination script

Answer ALL QUESTIONS**Question 1: Multiple choice****[20]**

For each statement/question choose the correct option given. Simply write the letter.

1. A critical period in development can be identified when a particular_____.[2]
 - a. age is critical for the development of learning and experience
 - b. experience has its greatest effect on learning during a particular period of development
 - c. critical experience has its greatest effect on development during learning
 - d. period, rather than experience, is critical for learning and development

2. One of the most impressive language developments in the early school years is the astonishing growth of..... [2]
 - a) cooperation
 - b) understanding
 - c) structure
 - d) vocabulary
 - e) intelligence

3. In their studies on the development of vision in kittens, Hubel and Wiesel (1963) systematically manipulated [2]
 - a. the degree to which kittens were deprived of visual stimuli and the duration of that deprivation
 - b. the critical age of onset of visual deprivation
 - c. the critical period of visual deprivation
 - d. the age of onset of visual deprivation and the duration of that deprivation

4. What is suggested with this? [2]

Jacqueline Sachs and her colleagues (1981) studied the language development of child they called Jim. He was a hearing a child of deaf parents, and his only contact with oral language was a through television, which he watched frequently. The family was unusual in that parents didn't use sign language with Jim. Thus, although in other respects he was well cared for, Jim didn't

begin his linguistic development in a normal environment in which a parent communicated with him in either oral or sign language.

- a) the innatist perspective
- b) cross-cultural research
- c) connectism
- d) the importance of interaction

5. No case of a feral child has ever provided strong support for the critical period hypothesis. This is because for all participants [2]

- a) neither the period of linguistic deprivation, nor its starting point, cannot be verified
- b) cognitive factors beyond language, including general intelligence, are also impaired
- c) cases of feral children only occurred before the 20th century and are impossible to verify
- d) cases of feral children invariably turn out to be hoaxes, in one way or another

6. What is correctly linked to each other? [2]

- a) Behaviorism- where the first language and the target language are similar, learners should acquire target language easily.
- b) Innatist perspective-knowledge of UG must be available to second language learners as well as to first language learners.
- c) Chomsky-innate knowledge of the principles of universal grammar permits all children to acquire the language of their environment during a critical period of their development.
- d) Cognitive and developmental psychologists-they argue that there is no need to hypothesize that humans have a language –specific module in the brain.

7. Genie was originally thought to provide a good test case for the critical period hypothesis with respect to language, because_____. [2]

- a. the period of linguistic deprivation and its starting point were systematically manipulated
- b. she was found at the age of puberty and, subsequently, could not acquire any aspect of language
- c. she had been deprived of linguistic, cognitive and social stimulation from birth to the age of puberty
- d. the period of linguistic deprivation was well-documented as corresponding with Lenneberg's (1968) hypothesis: from birth to puberty

8. About the age of two, most children begin to combine words into simple sentences such as 'Mommy juice' and 'baby fall down'. These sentences are sometimes called_____.

[2]

a) telegram b) telegraphic c) telephonic d) telephone

9. Cases of feral and isolated children do not provide strong support for the critical period hypothesis because too many factors are unaccounted for, including proof of_____. [2]

- a) how genuine each case is
- b) the kind of linguistic deprivation and its duration
- c) parental input with respect to language
- d) parental input with respect to cognition and emotion

10. In pre-school years, children also develop (.....) awareness, the ability to treat language as an object separate from the meaning it conveys. [2]

a) structuralinguistic b) behaviourism c) socialinguistic d) Metalinguistic

Question 2

[10]

1.1 Distinguish between the following factors of second language acquisition:

- a) Attitude and aptitude [5]
- b) Internal factors and external factors of second language learning [5]

Question 3

[25]

3.1 Briefly discuss in which way age affects second language acquisition amongst children and adults. What does the critical period hypothesis argue about age and acquisition? You may provide an example of Genie the feral girl to substantiate your response.

Question 4

[25]

4.1 Briefly discuss **two** theories of language acquisition. [20]

4.2 From the theories chosen, which **one** do you consider most tenable (justifiable) and substantiate your response. [5]

Question 5**[20]**

Identify and discuss any **five** learning styles used by learners in learning their second language. Provide relevant examples to substantiate your answers.

Total marks 100**End of Question Paper**