

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**  
**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELLING**  
**2023/2024 – SEMESTER II – FINAL EXAMINATION**



**BSC (HONS) IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
**PLU 4305 - LANGUAGE AND COGNITION - LEVEL 4**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER**  
**DURATION: 03 HOURS**

16 OCT 2024

DATE: 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024

TIME: 9.30 A.M – 12.30 P.M.

**SECTION 2: STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTIONS (60 MARKS)**

Choose 04 out of the 06 questions given below and answer using the provided answer sheets

- 2.1 Understanding the key components of language, including phonology, phonetics, syntax, and pragmatics, is crucial for comprehending human language development.**
- a) How does the distinction between phonology and phonetics contribute to our understanding of speech sounds and their functions in different languages? (5 marks)
  - b) How does understanding syntax contribute to our comprehension of sentence formation and grammatical rules? (5 marks)
  - c) How do speakers use pragmatic rules to maintain coherence and manage conversations effectively? (5 marks)
- 2.2 Exploring Andy Clark's six aspects of language as a cognitive tool, along with the contributions of Edward Sapir and Benjamin Whorf to the study of language and thought, provides valuable insights into how language shapes and enhances cognitive processes.**
- a) Briefly explain Andy Clark's six aspects of language as a cognitive tool. How do these aspects enhance our understanding of the role of language in cognitive processes? (7 marks)
  - b) How did Edward Sapir and Benjamin Whorf challenge traditional views in the study of language and thought? Explain (8 marks)
- 2.3 Emma, a 4-year-old, and Liam, a 5-year-old, were observed for their language development. Emma grew up in a bilingual English-Spanish household, while Liam was raised in a French-Arabic environment. Emma demonstrated balanced proficiency in both languages, often switching between them effortlessly. Liam, however, showed greater fluency in French and struggled more with Arabic.**
- a) How does Noam Chomsky's concept of 'universal grammar' explain the similarities and differences in Emma's and Liam's language acquisition? Provide examples from their development. (5 marks)
  - b) According to B.F. Skinner's theory, how does reinforcement influence the language skills of Emma and Liam? (5 marks)
  - c) What are the limitations of Skinner's theory in explaining the complexities observed in Emma's and Liam's language development? (5 marks)

- 2.4 Understanding the stages of language development from infancy to early childhood is important for recognizing how language acquisition shapes cognitive growth and communication skills in young children.**
- a) Discuss the key factors that influence language development in children, and explain how each factor contributes to this process (5 marks)
  - b) Analyze the stages of typical language development from infancy to early childhood. (10 marks)
- 2.5 Language has enabled humans to become an effective social species.**
- a) Discuss the psychological and social functions of rumours and gossip in human interactions. (7 marks)
  - b) Examine the functional aspects of communication in primitive species for survival compared to the development of symbolic language in humans for social interaction and cultural transmission. (8 marks)
- 2.6 Imagine a 45-year-old man named Ravi who has recently suffered a stroke. He is experiencing difficulties with his speech, often slurring his words, and has trouble finding the right words during conversations. Ravi also has difficulty swallowing and feels frustrated and isolated due to his communication challenges. His family is concerned about his recovery and wants to support him effectively. Describe the role of a Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) in Ravi's rehabilitation process. (15 marks)**

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