

M.A. / Post M.A. DIPLOMA / IV Sem.

A

LINGUISTICS— Course L-23
(Developmental Psycholinguistics)
(Admissions of 2009 and after)

Time : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 50

(Write your Roll No. on the top immediately on receipt of this question paper.)

Attempt all questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. The capacity to acquire and use language is a key aspect that distinguishes humans from other organisms. Do you agree that **language acquisition** is an internally directed, biologically triggered process of internalizing the system of rules necessary to process and use grammatical and acceptable sentences? Give your arguments.

OR

What are the major periods in the history of child language studies? Critically examine the strengths and weaknesses of *the period of large sample studies*.

2. Examine how it is necessary to describe the child's development of emerging language in terms of a sequence of grammars. Discuss language acquisition in later years.

OR

Critically examine how **innateness hypothesis** is the hypothesis that the course of language acquisition is determined by an innate language faculty. Discuss what is meant by language faculty.

3. Examine how experience serves as input to the child's language faculty, which provides the child with a set of procedures for analyzing the experience in such a way as to devise a grammar of the language being acquired. Discuss briefly the major features of *motherese*.

OR

One-word utterances of the one-word stage are called *holophrases* because the child expresses the meaning of an entire phrase or sentence in the one word she utters. Discuss how the one-word period marks the transition to the communicative and productive use of syntactic language.

4. What is meant by infant vocalizations? Discuss the features of infant vocalizations.

Or

What is meant by the *two-word stage*? Critically examine the **Pivot** approach.

5. Chose the correct answer in the following:

- i) By the age of 5 children tend to achieve
 - a. knowledge of producing short sentences
 - b. learning language through imitation
 - c. comprehending utterances systematically made available to the growing child.
 - d. acquisition of a rich and intricate system of rules for production and comprehension of language.
- ii) **Critical Period Hypothesis** is the hypothesis that
 - a. language is acquired only over the critical period for language acquisition and after that there is a non-linear decline in sensitivity to acquire language
 - b. there exists a language in every animal
 - c. there is an innate capacity to imitate for language acquisition
 - d. the course of language acquisition is determined by an innate language faculty unfolding only up to five years of age.
- iii) Language acquisition is characterized by
 - a. Individual-specific profiles of linguistic competence with no uniformity
 - b. uniformity and rapidity
 - c. the fact that babies are born talking
 - d. a simple formally instructed process of learning new sentences.
- iv) One-word utterances of the one-word stage are called holophrases because
 - a. all utterances show evidence of grammatical knowledge
 - b. all utterances are whole sentences
 - c. the child expresses the meaning of an entire phrase or sentence, in the one word she utters
 - d. word is used as an economical communication act under the child's control.
- v) There is universality of language acquisition as
 - a. every normal child acquires a natural language in contrast to attainment of simpler cognitive skills
 - b. every child in the same language community does not acquire the same language
 - c. every child moves from simple to complex structure in language acquisition
 - d. most children learn one language