



UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
NOVEMBER EXAMINATION 2016

PROGRAMME: B Ed HONORS
MODULE: EDUCATIONAL LINGUISTICS A
CODE: ELA 0017
TIME: 3 hours
MARKS: 100
EXAMINER: Prof L Kajee
Dr D Robinson
Mr G Makubalo

MODERATOR:

(This paper consists of three (3) pages)

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the following instructions carefully before answering the questions:

1. There are four questions in this paper. You are expected to answer any THREE questions in all.
2. You are required to make reference to class readings.
3. Number all questions correctly, and provide a title to each essay.
4. Start each essay on a new page.
5. Marks will be deducted for poor academic literacy.

QUESTION 1: MULTILINGUALISM

"South Africa's schools should be using the home language of their students as the medium of instruction. This multilingual approach to education was made law in 1997, and is intended, among other things, to modernize the African languages for routine use in high status functions" (Alexander, 2001: page 1 of 3).

In an essay of about 4 pages, discuss critically the multilingual approach to education in relation to the quotation above. Include in your discussion a consideration of:

- The purpose of a multilingual approach to education
- The current status of African languages in education
- Challenges and benefits of the use of the mother tongue for teachers and learners

(100/3)

QUESTION 2: SOCIOCULTURAL THEORY

“Vygotsky’s sociocultural theory of human learning describes learning as a social process and the orientation of human intelligence in society or culture. The major theme of Vygotsky’s theoretical framework is that social interaction plays a fundamental role in the development of cognition.”

Discuss Vygotsky’s sociocultural theory of learning as relevant to language learning. You may make reference to the ZPD, scaffolding, discourse, modelling, and collaborative learning to support your discussion.

(100/3)

QUESTION 3: LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

This module covered theories addressing the topic of First language Acquisition and Second Language Learning. Write an essay of 3-4 pages in which you address either of these topics. If you are addressing First Language matters It is expected that you consider the work of one or more of the following: B. F. Skinner, Noam Chomsky, and/or Steven Pinker. If you are addressing Second Language matters it would be expected that you consider one or more of the following: Rod Ellis, Stephen Krashen, and Jim Cummins.

In your essay you need to address central features of the theorists, and comment on their value in language education.

(100/3)

QUESTION 4: READING

A number of studies such as the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) continue to highlight concerns about the quality of reading literacy teaching in South African primary schools (Zimmerman and Smit, 2014). Discuss in an essay of between 3 and 4 pages your understanding of reading literacy, decoding and comprehension as well as how teachers can help learners in primary school to develop reading comprehension.

(100/3)

TOTAL: 100

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