



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2016/2017

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

AEN 303: SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

DATE: 31/5/2017

TIME: 11:00 – 1:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Question One and Any Other Two Questions

1. Explain the following notions, clearly showing how each adds to our understanding of second language acquisition:
 - a) First language versus target language
 - b) Instructed acquisition versus naturalistic acquisition
 - c) L1 transfer versus simplification (30 marks)
2. Behaviourism is one of the central theories of second language acquisition. Discuss how the following aspects of the theory explain the second language acquisition process:
 - a) Stimulus-response
 - b) Positive and negative reinforcement
 - c) Imitation
 - d) Habit formation (20 marks)
3. Similarities and differences between the L1 and L2 are critical for language learning. Discuss this statement in relation to the Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis. (20 marks)
4. Outline the innateness theory and relate it to developmental stages of First Language acquisition. (20 marks)
5. Suppose you want to understand the nature of errors in a Form Two class of English, describe the stages of error analysis that might lead you to credible findings. (20 marks)