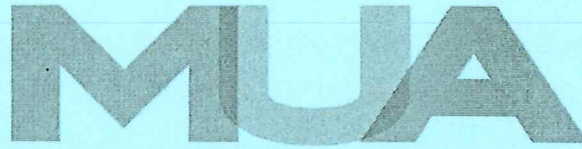


The
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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

ENG 111 : INTRODUCTION TO THE STUD OF LANGUAGE

DATE: 27TH JULY 2021

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.

QUESTION ONE

Read the case study below carefully and answer the questions that follow.

LANGUAGE AND BRAIN

If asked where the ability to use language is located in the human body, most of us may answer correctly that it is the brain. But exactly which part of the brain is responsible for language?

To answer this question, let's go to the famous story of September 1848 in Cavendish.

In this story, we are told about a construction foreman in charge of a construction crew whose name was Phineas Gage. This man had an accident at his place of work – there was an accidental explosion. The result of this explosion was that a 3 ½ foot long iron rod went up his upper left cheek and out through the top of his head. It was assumed that he would never recover. However, exactly one month later, he was up and about, and there was no apparent damage to his senses or his speech.

After this incident, it was concluded that if language had anything to do with the brain, it was evidently not the front of the brain. Since then, a number of discoveries have been made concerning the specific areas in the brain, which are related to language functions.

First, it was discovered that language abilities are basically located on the left side of the brain i.e., the left hemisphere and that any damage to this side of the brain caused speech problems to individuals whereas damage to the right hemisphere did not have the same repercussions. The relationship between language and the brain came to be established more specifically in 1861. Subsequently three areas of the brain can be described.

Broca's area

Paul Broca was a French surgeon who stated at a scientific meeting in Paris that we speak with the left hemisphere of the brain and that damage to this part of the brain resulted in extreme difficulty in producing speech or complete loss of speech. This part of the brain was then named Broca's area after the surgeon Paul Broca who first described it. Technically, this area is described as the **anterior speech cortex**. It has therefore been taken to mean that Broca's area is crucially involved in the production of speech.

Wernicke's area

This area is also known as the posterior speech cortex. It was named after Carl Wernicke who was a German doctor in the 1870s. Wernicke reported that his patients had lesions in the posterior or the back portion of the left temporal lobe or the back part of the left hemisphere. Unlike Braoca's patients, Wernicke's patients spoke fluently with good intonation and pronunciation, but with numerous instances of lexical errors (word substitutions) and often with phonological mistakes. They also had difficulty in comprehending speech. It was then concluded that Wernicke's area is the part of the brain crucially involved in the understanding of speech.

Supplementary motor area/Superior speech cortex

Penfield and Roberts were two neurosurgeons who found out that by applying minute amounts of electrical current to specific areas of the brain, they could identify those areas where the electrical stimulation would interfere with normal speech production. This was taken as evidence that this area is involved in the actual articulation of speech, i.e. the movements involved in speech are controlled in this area.

Simply put, what happens in the brain is that: -

- The word is heard and understood via Wernicke's area.
- The signal is then transferred to Broca's area where preparations are made to produce it.
- A signal is then sent to the motor area to physically articulate the word.

However, there are those who say that damage to the left hemisphere which subsequently leads to language disorder, is not sufficient evidence for us to now say that it is responsible for speech. They claim that any damage to any area of the brain appears to have serious repercussions in other areas.

- a) Define language (2marks)
- b) Discuss the relationship between brain and language. (10marks)
- c) Describe relationship between Broca's area, Wernicke's area, and supplementary motor area (3marks)
- d) Analyze the following sounds giving examples (10marks)
- i) Plosives
 - ii) Fricatives
 - iii) Trills
 - iv) Lateral
 - v) Nasals

QUESTION TWO

- a) Examine six properties of language (12 marks)
- b) With an example of each, distinguish between a phoneme and an allophone. (3 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Briefly explain what constitutes the difference between semantics and pragmatics. (5 marks)
- b) Evaluate the scientificness of linguistics. (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

Discuss and evaluate the relationship between the study of language and:

- a) Sociology (8 marks)
- b) Psychology (7 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Giving sentential examples, distinguish between simple, compound and complex sentences. (6marks)
- b) Evaluate six reasons as to why People study language. (6marks)
- c) Discuss the difference between prescriptive and descriptive linguistics (3marks).

QUESTION SIX

- (a) Define and evaluate its applicability of artificial language (2marks)
- (b) Explain any four requirements of an ideal artificial language. (4 marks)
- (c) Discuss problems facing artificial language in an attempt to make it an international language of communication? Give five examples. (4 marks)

- (d) Explain the similarities of sign language to natural spoken language (5 marks)