
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
Academic Session 2006/2007

April 2007

HXE 205 – LANGUAGE LEARNING THEORIES

Duration : 3 hours

Please check that this examination paper consists of TWO pages of printed material before you begin the examination.

Answer any FOUR questions.

1. Discuss, with examples, the roles of reinforcement in B.F Skinner's operant conditioning in language acquisition.

[25 marks]

2. Noam Chomsky proposed that language acquisition is innately determined; that is, children are biologically programmed for language. Discuss.

[25 marks]

3. What is lateralization? Discuss three different ways in which brain lateralization has been studied.

[25 marks]

4. Errors should be seen positively as an indication of learning. Discuss how Interlanguage theory holds this view and why.

[25 marks]

5. Krashen's Affective Filter hypothesis claims that a number of affective variables play a facilitative, but non-causal, role in second language acquisition. Discuss.

[25 marks]