



## Second-semester Achievement Test [ANSWER KEYS]

dated Tuesday June 15th, 2021

**Dr. Ahmed C. HOADJLI**

Lecturer at the Section  
of English. University  
of Biskra.

**Course: Linguistics**

Level: 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
Time: 1 hour

**SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Based on student's  
answers and language  
accuracy.

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Group:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Be precise and concise | clear handwriting | Do not exceed the answering lines

**Part One: Just remind it !**

**Out of: 8 pts**

**Activity One:** Provide **Individuals** to these definitions. [Each item is worth 1pt]

1. **Burrhus F. Skinner:** A child imitates its parents' language. Successful attempts are rewarded and therefore reinforced while unsuccessful ones are forgotten.
2. **Jean Piaget:** Language acquisition is placed within the context of a child's mental/cognitive development.
3. **Noam Chomsky:** A child must have an inborn faculty to L1 acquisition.
4. **Jerome Bruner:** Language behaviour is supported by adults. Language exists for the purpose of communication and can only be acquired in the context of interaction.

\*01/4pts is given to those who have provided **ALL** the corresponding theories instead of the scholars' names.

**Activity Two:** Decide whether these statements are **True** or **False**. [Each item is worth 1pt]

1. Behaviourists saw the child as essentially autonomous in the creation of language. This child is an active participant in its approach to L1 acquisition. **False**
2. The Innateness theory holds a view that there is an inborn mechanism that is necessary to explain L1 acquisition but in the presence of external support. **False**
3. Krashen's theory is a suitable time for language acquisition during which language can easily be acquired and beyond which it becomes increasingly difficult to acquire it. **False**
4. It is argued that children are more superior in language comprehension than in production. **True**

**Activity One:** fill in the gaps. [Each item is worth 1pt]

Cognitive psychologists try to build up cognitive models of the .....**1**..... processing that goes on inside an individual's mind. A cognitive model of the .....**2**..... system would suggest two components: one dealing with the information that we need to .....**3**....., and another for .....**4**..... all the information we have acquired. These components are assumed to be interconnected.

1	2	3	4
Information	Memory	Process	Storing

**Activity:** Read these statements and provide your explanation. **CHOOSE ONE** Statement **ONLY**.

**Statement One:** "While there must be some truth in the behavioural approach, there are many objections."  
-Explain-

**Statement Two:** "In contrast to the Language Acquisition Device (LAD), the Language Acquisition Support System (LASS) provides a more valid evidence to first language acquisition."  
-Explain-

### Statement One

#### Main Assumptions of Behaviourism

- It is concerned with observable behaviour.
- Humans are born with a "Tabula Rasa".
- Behaviour is the result of stimulus-response.

#### Weaknesses

- It completely ignored the biological make-up of humans.
- It over-emphasised experimentation.
- It relied on artificial environments.
- It neglected the influence of the mind on behaviour.

#### Limitations of the Behavioural Approach to L1 Acquisition

- Language is based on a set of structures, which could not be worked out simply by imitating individual utterances.
- Children are not often able to repeat what an adult says.
- Few children receive much explicit grammatical correction. Parents are more interested in politeness and truthfulness.
- There is evidence for a critical period for language acquisition.

## **Statement Two**

**Language Acquisition Device (LAD):** Chomsky concluded that children must have an inborn faculty for language acquisition. According to Chomsky, the process is biologically determined. The human species has evolved a brain whose neural circuits contain linguistic information at birth. This natural faculty has become known as the Language Acquisition Device (LAD).

**Limitations of Chomsky's LAD:** Chomsky's theory (LAD) relies on children being exposed to language but takes no account of the interaction between children and their caregivers/parents. It also does not recognise the reasons why a child might want to speak (the functions of language).

**Language Acquisition Support System (LASS):** Bruner suggested that the language behaviour of adults when talking to children is, especially, adopted to support the acquisition process. Bruner coined the term Language Acquisition Support System (LASS) in response to Chomsky's LAD.

**Evidence of LASS to L1 Acquisition:** Bruner's theory (LASS) stressed the importance of the language input children receive from their caregivers/parents. Language exists for the purpose of communication and can only be acquired in the context of interaction with people who want to communicate with the speaker/hearer.

### **The Following Writing Criteria Are Taken into Consideration**

- Academic language.
- Grammar and spelling.
- Coherence and cohesion.

