FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

2nd SEMESTER 2017

ASSIGNMENT 2

PSYCHOLINGUISTICS
PCL312S
ASSIGNMENT 2

1. Discuss how children progress through the four main components of language in the learning of a language.

Read unit 4 in the study guide. Both of you consulted various resources and did well in this question.

2. Chomsky and Skinner are of the most renowned contributors to the language acquisition debate. Discuss and compare their theories on language acquisition. What are the criticisms in favour and against these theories? Your answer should be presented in a well-structured essay.

This question requires that you follow the nature/nurture; Chomsky/Skinner debate throughout the study guide. There are other theorists who support the two theorists and also shed light on their claims. A consultation of other resources would have helped you to successfully discuss your answer.

3. Describe any 3 features of sign language.

Sign language is a visual language that incorporates gestures, facial expressions, head movements, body language and the space around the speaker. Hand signs are the foundation of the language.

- Many signs are iconic, meaning the sign uses a visual image that resembles the concept it presents. Actions are sometimes expressed through hand signals that mimic the action being communicated e.g.

- Fingerspelling – Some hand signs for letters resemble the written form of the respective letter of the alphabet. Used to spell out names of objects or people.

- Indexing – to index you point your index finger at a person who is present or indicate someone who is not present at that moment. To talk about an absent referent you would first sign that person’s name and then indicate a space in that area you are in to indicate that person. From that moment on when you point to that space the person to whom you are speaking knows that you are talking about the person whose identity you established earlier.

- Punctuation – indicated through facial expression, pauses and through hand signs.

4. What do you understand under the notion “Slips of the Tongue “as an aspect of grammaticality? Discuss two major types of “Slips of the Tongue”.

Slips of the tongue are speech errors. These include:
sound errors: words in close environment are exchanged
morpheme errors: morphemes are switched in words
word errors: words in an expression are rearranged
Other errors:
Anticipation
Perseveration
Deletion
You can also follow the following link:
http://mercercognitivepsychology.pbworks.com/w/page/33015683/Slip-of-the-Tongue%20Errors

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