

1st TERM EXAM (Model Answers)

❖ **Provide the appropriate term associated with the concepts and features described in the statements below (1 point for each correct answer).**

1. The language learning theory which hypothesizes that what children need to know is essentially available in the environment they interact with and the language they are exposed to **Interactionism**
2. The metaphorical place in which the child could do more than they would be capable of independently.
The zone of proximal development
3. The hypothesis which holds that each piece of knowledge can be identified, encoded, and debugged in a separate department of the brain independently of the other pieces of information. **Brain modularity**
4. The assertion that children come to know more about the structure of their language than they could reasonably be expected to learn on the basis of the samples of language they hear. **Poverty of the stimulus hypothesis/ the logical problem of language acquisition**
5. The type of operant in which a response or behavior is strengthened by stopping, removing, or avoiding a negative outcome or aversive stimulus. **Negative Reinforcement**
6. The theory which claims that language learning is about constructing a network of interconnected exemplars and patterns, rather than formulating abstract rules. **Connectionism**
7. The psychologist who first introduced and described the operant conditioning theory. **B.F. Skinner**
8. A stimulus that neither increases nor decreases a behavior. **Neutral stimulus**
9. The sentences toddlers use leaving out function words and grammatical morphemes. **Telegraphic sentences.**
10. Responses from the environment that increase the probability of a behavior being repeated. **Reinforcers**
11. The ability to treat language as an object separate from the meaning it conveys. **Metalinguistic awareness**

12. The language learning theory which claims that the environment makes only a basic contribution and that the child's biological endowment will do the rest. **Innatism**

13. The type of operant which involves taking something good or desirable away to reduce the occurrence of a particular behavior. **Negative Punishment**

14. The principle which states that the behavior that is followed by pleasant consequences is likely to be repeated, and that the behavior which is followed by unpleasant consequences is less likely to be repeated.

Law of effect

15. The set of open values which, according to Chomsky's theory, characterize differences between languages.

Parameters

16. The type of child language studies where the linguist or psychologist parent would keep a diary of his/her child's learning over some period of time. **Diary studies**

17. Responses from the environment that decrease the likelihood of a behavior being repeated. **Punishers**

18. The language learning theory which hypothesizes that children learn their first language through stimulus, response, and reinforcement. **Behaviourism**

19. The process of pairing a previously neutral stimulus with an unconditioned stimulus. **Classical conditioning**

20. The hypothesis that animals, including humans, are genetically programmed to acquire certain kinds of knowledge and skill at specific times in life. Beyond those specific times, it is either difficult or impossible to acquire those abilities. **The critical period hypothesis**