

University of Education, Winneba
Department of Applied Linguistics Education
Second Semester 2007/2008

Course Outline

Course Code: LNG 241 2 Credits

Course Title: Theories of Language Acquisition

Instructor: Mr. Sefa Owusu

Lecture Hours: Mondays, 7:30am-9:30am

Venue: South Assembly Hall

Objectives: By the end of the course, each student should be able:

1. to discuss the various competing theories of first and second language acquisition.
2. to apply these theories in teaching and learning of L2 in Ghana.

Course Requirements: Students are required to

- i. be regular and punctual at lectures.
- ii. do all assigned readings before each class meeting.
- iii. actively participate in class discussions.
- iv. submit all written assignments and seminar papers on schedule.

Assessment: Each student's final grade will be based on his/her performance in tests/assignments (40%) and final exam (60%).

1. Introduction to Language Acquisition
2. The Human Brain and Language
3. Theories of First Language Acquisition
 - a. Behaviourism
 - b. Innatism
 - c. Interactionist Position
4. Theories of Second Language Acquisition
 - a. Identity Theory
 - b. Contrastive Theory
 - c. Monitor Theory
 - d. Pidginisation
 - e. Creolisation

5. The Interlanguage Theory
6. Cognitive Theory
7. Error Analysis
8. Second Language Learning in the Classroom
9. Language Testing

References:

Brown, Douglas (1980). *Principles of Language Learning and Teaching*. New Jersey: Englewood.

Cook, Vivian (1991). *Second Language Learning and Language Teaching*. London: Edward Arnold.

Ellis, Rod (2001). *The Study of Second Language Acquisition*. Oxford: OUP.

Hoff, Erica (2001). *Language Development*. USA: Wadsworth

Klein, Wolfgang (1986). *Second Language Acquisition*. Cambridge: CUP.

Lightbrown, P. M. & Spada, N. (1999). *How Languages are Learned*. Oxford: OUP.

Owusu, Sefa (1999). *A Critical Look at Some Phonological Factors which Influence the Native Akan Speakers' Mispronunciation of Some English Words*. Unpublished Long Essay. Faculty of Education, UCC.

Smith, M. S. (1994). *Second Language Learning*. London: Longman.

Saville-Troike, Muriel. (2006). *Introducing Second language Acquisition*. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press