

**University of Colombo, Sri Lanka**

**Faculty of Arts**

**Special Degree Examination in Arts (Year 4), Semester 2, 2016/2017**

**ENG 4283 – Independent Study: First Language Acquisition and  
Bilingualism**

**Two Hours**

**Answer any TWO (02) questions**

**EITHER**

1. Critically examine the evidence presented for the Unitary Language Hypothesis **OR** the Dual Language Hypothesis by referring to **at least 2 studies**.

**OR**

2. Compare and contrast the Unitary Language System hypothesis and the Dual Language System hypothesis, by referring to **at least 2 studies**.

**EITHER**

3. “Research on early metalinguistic development is linked to literacy development at all levels, beginning with phonological awareness and the learning of sound-letter correspondences (Chaney, 1992; Dreher & Zenge, 1990). Exposure to at least two languages from an early age has demonstrated that bilingual children display more advanced metalinguistic awareness than monolingual children”. Analyse this statement referring to **at least 2 studies**.

**OR**

4. Why is metalinguistic awareness in pre-school children regarded as important? Critically analyse this issue by referring to **at least 2 studies** relating to metalinguistic awareness in bilingual children.

**EITHER**

5. Explore the typical stages a child goes through in learning to speak a second language by referring to **at least 2 studies**.

**OR**

6. "L1 minority children are expected to become fluent in the majority L2 very rapidly. ... That is because they can appear to be more linguistically sophisticated than they are and create a false impression among fluent users of the language." Discuss this statement with reference to a bilingual child learning to speak a second language, by referring to **at least 2 studies**.

**EITHER**

7. "Language attrition can represent the tangible symptom of disconnectedness and severance." Discuss the effects of language attrition in children by referring to **at least 2 studies**.

**OR**

8. "L1 attrition in the case of bilinguals is marked by an increased dominance of the majority language and lessened exposure to the L1." By referring to **at least 2 studies**, analyse this statement with particular emphasis on language attrition in bilingual children.

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