



UNIVERSITETET I OSLO

Institutt for litteratur, områdestudier og europeiske språk

TAKE-HOME EXAM 2015/AUTUMN 2 pages

ENG4116 – Second Language Acquisition

3 days

14–17 December

Your paper must be submitted in the folder “Eksamensinnlevering” (to be found in the Fronter “fellesrom”) **at 14.00 (2 p.m.)** on the submission day. The folder will automatically close at this hour. If you have technical problems, you must contact the exam coordinator immediately.

The first page of your paper must contain:

- candidate number (4 numbers, which you find at StudentWeb), NOT your name
- course code and course name
- semester and year
- the title of your paper

Please use Times New Roman, 12 pt., 1.5 line spacing in the body of the text. In the header you write your candidate number, course code and semester. All pages must be numbered.

When submitting your paper, you must confirm that you are familiar with the university’s rules regarding proper citing of sources. Make sure that you have enough time to read through the declaration.

Choose ONE of the options below, either option (1) or option (2):

EITHER

(1)

- a) Eskildsen (2015) challenges the assumption of universal stages in L2 acquisition of questions. Describe three ways in which his data are difficult to reconcile with the more traditional idea of universal stages as described in Ortega (2009, 132–133), and discuss what these differences mean for our understanding of interlanguage.
- b) Why is frequency so important to emergentist compared to nativist theories?
- c) Define the data type collected by Eskildsen according to the categories in Ellis (2008) and discuss his reasons for choosing this type of data. Also explain what a case study is and discuss his reasons for choosing this method.

You are required to write between 2400 and 4000 words altogether. This does not include the bibliography.

OR

(2)

- a) Define transfer and explain what the difference is between positive and negative transfer and between forward and reverse transfer. Discuss whether we can find examples of all these types of transfer in the data from Zufferey et al. (2015).
- b) Different linguistic and non-linguistic factors can modify and constrain transfer from one language to another. Explain what we mean by this and give a couple of examples. Then explain which modifying factor is identified in Zufferey et al. (2015) and discuss how it affects transfer in the study.
- c) Ellis (2008) classifies different types of data typically used in SLA studies, although his account is not exhaustive. Categorize the data collected at the different stages of Zufferey et al.'s study and discuss how well they fit with Ellis's scheme. Explain the reasons for using these types of data, based on what the researchers wanted to find out and the variables they needed to control.

You are required to write between 2400 and 4000 words altogether. This does not include the bibliography.

The marks will be published approximately 3 weeks after the exam date in Studentweb. You will receive an e-mail when the results are ready.

For an explanation of the mark obtained, please contact the teacher responsible for the course within one week after the exam results have been published. Remember to include your candidate number. The examiner will decide whether to give a written or oral explanation.