

Student Name: _____

ID#: _____

Linguistics / Psychology 3C03

Midterm Test, 28 February 2018

SHORT (2 points each for a total of 8)

Answer each question with one sentence.

1. Quine (1970) used the imaginary word *gavagai* to illustrate what he called the "Induction Problem". What challenge for children's language learning does the Induction Problem refer to?
2. What property does speech directed to non-native speakers share with infant-directed speech?
3. Give a brief description of the evidence for one source of information that infants can use to segment individual word forms from a continuous stream of speech.
4. For many years, researchers believed that the shape of the vocal tract in non-human primates prevented the animals from forming speech sounds. Give a brief explanation of the recent evidence that has challenged this belief.

8. Byers-Heinlein et al. (2010) compared the performance of monolingual English and bilingual Tagalog-English babies on a HAS habituation task. Briefly describe how they interpreted their findings.

GRANDE (8 points)

Answer this question on the other side of this page with a few sentences.

9. Many languages of the world have a property known as vowel harmony. For example, in Turkish, if one vowel in a word is rounded, all the vowels in the word will be rounded; no words mix rounded with unrounded vowels. Likewise, in Swahili, affixes have the same tongue height as the vowels in a root word. Imagine that you are going to design an experiment to discover whether infants are sensitive to the property of vowel harmony and could use this property to segment individual words from the speech stream. Describe the study you would design:
 - What age of infants will you recruit? From what language background?
 - What stimuli will you use?
 - What method will use? What will you observe?
 - Predict what pattern of results will allow you to draw conclusions about infants' sensitivity to vowel harmony.