Module Code | AE-3301  
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Module Title | Language Acquisition  
Type of Module: | BA in English Language & Linguistics [Option/Breadth]  
Modular Credits: | 4  
Student Workload: | 8 hours per week  
Contact hours for timetabling: | 2 hours per week  
Prerequisite: | None  
Antirequisite: | None  
Aims:  
The aim of the module is to provide a comprehensive overview of language acquisition, both in the first and second language. Issues in second language learning are also addressed, particularly those relevant to trainee language teachers. By the end of the module students will understand the psychological and sociological processes of first and second language acquisition and be able to relate the two in the exploration of language acquisition phenomenon.  
Module Content:  
- *Language & the brain* – how the brain processes language, both input and output.  
- *Language handicaps* – symptoms and coping with problems such as aphasia, dyslexia & dysgraphia.  
- *Theories of first language acquisition* – comparing children’s language & language development.  
- *Theories of second language acquisition* – comparing natural with taught second and further languages.  
- *Factors affecting second language learning* – understanding theories about critical age, nature vs nurture, type of schooling, interlanguage & the role of family.  
- *Misconceptions* - fact vs fiction: the role of IQ, copying, rote learning, errors, the acquisition of simple before complex structures.  
- *In the classroom* – relating what has been learned about the theory of language acquisition and language handicaps to the classroom itself, particularly the Brunei classroom.  
Assessment | Examination: One 2-hour paper | 50 % | Coursework:  
Case-study presentations (20%), Mid-semester revision test (15%)  
Short essay (15%) | 50 %  
Textbook(s) References:  
Staff: | Dr Debbie Ho/Dr Salbrina Hj Sharbawi