

Introduction to Linguistics: Quiz 6 (FLA/SLA) Practice questions

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Your Name: _____

- (1) What is *neurolinguistics*? How is it related to *language acquisition*? [Neurolinguistics is a study of relationships between brain and language. The research suggests that plasticity of the brain functions contribute to the acquisition of language process.](#)
- (2) What is *aphasia*? [Aphasia is a partial dysfunction of the brain that results in the loss of some aspects of language ability.](#)
- (3) What is *Broca's area*? What is its function? [Broca's area is located in the cortex of the dominant frontal lobe \(i.e., in front of the left ear\) and is believed to be responsible for the speech production \(or broadly syntax\).](#)
- (4) What is *Wernicke's area*? What is its function? [Wernicke's area is located in the cortex of the dominant temporal lobe \(i.e., in back of the left ear\) and is believed to be responsible for the speech comprehension \(or broadly semantics\).](#)
- (5) Which type of aphasia is characterized by speech like this: ... *two times ... read ... wr ... ripe, er, rike, er, write*? [Broca's aphasia](#)
- (6) How do the researchers know the connection between the brain and the language functions? What are the typical techniques used in the neurolinguistic research? [Various methods are employed to probe into the brain functions \(e.g., PET scanning, the dichotic listening test \(the right-ear advantage\), MRI and fMRI etc.; see the handout for more details of those methods\), but all of them are indirect methods and no evidence for a direct relationship between the specific location of the brain and the language functions has been found yet.](#)
- (7) What is the *Critical Period Hypothesis*? [Critical Period Hypothesis is a claim by Lenneberg \(1967\) who argued that the language acquisition must take place before children lose plasticity of the brain \(i.e., before their brain functions are localized into different parts of the brain\). The localization of the brain functions is called *lateralization* and is believed to happen before puberty](#)
- (8) What is the difference between *first language acquisition* and *second language acquisition*? What is the difference between *language acquisition* and *language learning*? [First Language Acquisition \(FLA\) is used for language acquisition process by children \(thus, bilingual children might have two first languages\) and Second Language Acquisition \(SLA\) is used for adults who learn a language \(usually in a classroom setting\). The term *acquire* usually indicates FLA whereas *learn* is used for SLA.](#)
- (9) Some stages of first language acquisition are highly predictable. What are the milestones of children's lexical development (development of vocabulary, especially up to age 2-3)? Discuss the following stages in the lexical acquisition:
 - a) babbling stage
 - b) one-word stage
 - c) two-word stage
 - d) telegraphic stage[see the handout](#)
- (10) Some stages of first language acquisition are highly predictable. What are the milestones of children's syntactic development (development of grammar, especially up to age 2-3)? Discuss them in terms of *question* forming and *negative* forming by young children.
 [see the handout](#)
- (11) Which of the following statement do you agree with? What reasons would you give to support your opinions?
 - a) People with high IQs are good (first) language learner.
 - b) Most mistakes in the second language are due to the interference from the first language.
 - c) The second language learners should not be allowed to hear mistakes or they will learn the erroneous sentences.
 - d) Teachers should teach simple grammar before complex one.
 - e) Teacher should teach only one grammar rule in the second language at a time and practice it thoroughly before introducing the next rule.

The answers vary. Make sure that you can rationalize your choice (e.g., why do you think IQ matters or does not matter?).