Linguistic Science and Language Acquisition

Linguistics And Neurolinguistics · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which hypothesis, proposed by Stephen Krashen, asserts that learners acquire language through exposure to 'comprehensible input' that is slightly above their current level of competence?

A) The Interaction Hypothesis
B) The Input Hypothesis
C) The Output Hypothesis
D) The Monitor Hypothesis

2. According to the Critical Period Hypothesis, which neurological process is primarily responsible for the decline in the ability to achieve native-like phonological mastery after puberty?

A) Synaptic pruning and decreased brain plasticity
B) The ossification of the vocal tract
C) The decline of neurotransmitter production
D) Increased lateralization of the prefrontal cortex

3. In the context of second language acquisition, what does the 'U-shaped learning' phenomenon describe?

A) The rapid acquisition of irregular verbs followed by a decline
B) Initial correct usage, followed by errors due to overgeneralization, then eventual mastery
C) The peak in fluency during the middle stages of language study
D) The curve representing vocabulary retention over a ten-year period

4. Which brain region is consistently activated in bilinguals during the process of managing interference between two competing language systems?

A) The primary visual cortex
B) The anterior cingulate cortex
C) The superior temporal gyrus
D) The amygdala

5. What is the primary function of 'metalinguistic awareness' in an adult foreign language learner?

A) The ability to produce native-like accents
B) The capacity to think about and reflect upon the structure and rules of language
C) The process of translating thoughts into a secondary language automatically
D) The memorization of irregular verb conjugations

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6. According to the 'Bilingual Advantage' theory, what executive function is significantly enhanced in bilinguals due to constant language switching?

A) Long-term semantic memory
B) Inhibitory control
C) Sensory processing speed
D) Object permanence

7. What does the 'Negative Transfer' (or interference) effect refer to in language learning?

A) The inability to speak a second language due to anxiety
B) The influence of the first language's structures causing errors in the target language
C) The loss of vocabulary in the native language
D) The physiological difficulty of producing foreign phonemes

8. Which grammatical feature is classified as an 'inflectional morpheme' in linguistic morphology?

A) The prefix 'un-' in 'unhappy'
B) The suffix '-ed' in 'walked'
C) The compound word 'raincoat'
D) The root word 'cat'

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