LIGN 170 Child Language Acquisition Take Home Assignment

Name: _____
UCSD ID: _____

DUE IN CLASS 4/17

Three questions – each 20 points. Use extra paper as necessary.

1. There was a mix up at the hospital, and 2 newborns have been switched at birth. The babies look very similar, and neither has any distinguishing visual characteristics. Even their mothers can't tell them apart. Knowing what you know about infant speech perception, how could you re-unite each baby with its mother?

2. Explain why the perceptual assimilation model predict that a phonemic contrast between the Zulu dental and alveolar lateral clicks will be easy for a native English-speaking adult to distinguish, whereas the phonemic contrast between Hindi retroflex /T/ and dental /t/ will be difficult for a native English-speaking adult to distinguish?

3. Explain the rhythmic class hypothesis. At what age could an English speaking infant distinguish French from Japanese? English from Dutch? What methods could you use to test the hypothesis?

Fun fact: In Zulu, the word "umama" means "my mother" not "your mother"