

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama
Sidang 1993/94

Oktober/November 1993

HET 401 - Semantik Bahasa Inggeris

Masa: [3 jam]

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS SIX [6] QUESTIONS IN TWO [2] PAGES.

Answer FOUR [4] questions, TWO [2] questions from Section A and TWO [2] questions from Section B.

SECTION A - Answer any TWO [2] questions

1. Why was there so much furore over the 'meanings of meaning' among semanticists that made Bloomfield conclude pessimistically that "The statement of meanings is therefore the weak-point in language study, and will remain so until human knowledge advances very far beyond its present state." Do you agree with Bloomfield's pessimism? Why?

(25 marks)
2. Leech states that reflected meaning and collocative meaning, affective meaning and social meaning have more in common with connotative meaning than with conceptual meaning. To what extent would you agree with Leech?

(25 marks)
3. What distinction, if any, would you draw between sense and reference? Which is more important of the two in the study of meaning in semantics? Discuss.

(25 marks)

SECTION B - Answer any TWO [2] questions

4. Since logic, the study of the organization of rational thought, has always been regarded as the preserve of the philosopher why then, have linguists invaded the traditional territory held by these philosophers?

(25 marks)

5. Hurford and Heasley (1983) state that "The semanticist dictionary-writer and the ordinary dictionary-writer have quite similar goals, but they differ markedly in their style of approach and the emphasis which they place on their various goals." Discuss this statement by providing examples.

(25 marks)

6. According to some scholars, the distinction between semantics and pragmatics is essentially a distinction between meaning and use, or that between competence and performance (Leech, 1981). Critically discuss this view.

(25 marks)

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