

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA
Peperiksaan Semester Pertama
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HET 203 Pengantar Linguistik Am untuk Guru

Masa: [3 jam]

This Examination paper contains SIX [6] questions in TWO [2] pages.

Answer FIVE [5] questions. THREE [3] from Section A, QUESTION NO.5 and NO. 6 from Section MUST be answered.

SECTION A - Answer THREE [3] questions

1. Below are statements about language, language use and language users. Consider them. From your readings in linguistics, give a cogent explanation for each of the statements.
 - (a) Its easier to learn Chinese if your ancestry is Chinese.
 - (b) The more time parents spend teaching their children English, the better the children will speak.
 - (c) There are primitive languages with only a few hundred words.

(20 marks)
2. What can you say about animal communication? Using evidence from studies conducted on animals -- bees, chimpanzees, dolphins -- describe the properties of animal communication systems. How does it differ from human language?

(20 marks)
3. What is sociolinguistics? Describe explicitly what sociolinguistic study entails. Is sociolinguistics a vital aspect of language? Why?

(20 marks)

4. According to the theory of operant conditioning proposed by the behaviourists -- a child spontaneously vocalizes in a random fashion: the child's parents reinforces these vocalizations, either positively or negatively: over time the child's vocalizations resemble the parents speech more and more closely and thus, they learn to talk.

What is your opinion of this theory? Is there an alternative theory that would reflect more accurately the process of language acquisition? Explain.

(20 marks)

SECTION B - Both questions MUST be answered

5. Using labelled tree diagrams, give the surface constituent structure of the following sentences:

- (a) I know you like liver, and I like it too.
- (b) The cheese which is in the fridge and the bread that is on the table is mine.
- (c) I love red but Jaya like green.
- (d) The fat, fluffly, beige Persian cat dropped the dead mouse in the garden and ran away.
- (e) All daughters and sons should learn ancient Chinese art.
- (f) The books on the middle shelf of the rack in the 3rd aisle are damp but the professor borrowed them.

(12 marks)

6. Explain the following terms. Include examples.

- (a) diglossia
- (b) lateralization
- (c) slang
- (d) ambiguity
- (e) phonological rules
- (f) borrowing
- (g) derivational morphemes

(28 marks)