

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama
Sidang Akademik 1992/93

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HET 401 Semantik Bahasa Inggeris

[3 jam]

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

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

Equal marks are allocated to All questions.

SECTION A - Answer TWO [2] questions

1. Outline the arguments that Bloomfield and fellow semanticists use to support the idea that meaning ought to be studied in terms of other scientific disciplines, eg. psychology or chemistry. To what extent are they convincing?
2. Based on what Leech has to say about the seven types of meanings and the five functions of language, comment on the language and/or meaning use in the excerpt below:

It is good to be passionate about the environment, but the good cause is undermined if people are blind to any evidence or fact which will refute their thesis, and their current thesis seems to be that Malaysians are rapacious abusers of the environment. Does that sound like Malaysia? Is Malaysia, its government and its people, so blind as to sell our future for the pleasures of today?

The Penans have become a convenient rallying point for the passions of international environmental groups. Shades of precious fin de siecle* romanticism; visions of the noble savage stalking big game in arboreal groves, in grunting communion with the voices of the land. The same kind of romantic claptrap that got natives all over the

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world sold down the river into slavery; decimated by smallpox and clap; driven from their land into alcoholism and hopeless helplessness.

(Extracted from the New Straits Times editorial, "They do not know better", August 18, 1991)

- * - characteristic of end of nineteenth century, decadent.
3. Define the concepts synonymy, hyponymy and antonymy and then discuss the relationship between these concepts as well as the role they play in the semantics of English.

SECTION B - Answer TWO [2] questions

4. Both logical notation and logical rules of inference have great significance in the study of logic in semantics. Discuss the above statement using examples.
5. Discuss whether a dictionary ought ever to prescribe rather than describe, in advising, for example, against 'solecisms' (like irregardless, this phenomena) taboo words, sexist terms (like spokesman, poetess), racially or politically offensive words etc.
6. One of the most widely espoused views in linguistics today, with regard to semantics and pragmatics, is the complementarists'. What is your stand on this?

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