

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama
Sidang 1991/92

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HET 401 Semantik Bahasa Inggeris

Masa: [3 jam]

This Examination paper contains SIX [6] questions in THREE [3] pages.

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

Equal marks are allocated to All questions.

SECTION A - Answer any TWO [2] questions

1. This passage is taken from George Orwell's novel, Nineteen Eighty-Four. Read the extract carefully and then answer the questions that follow.

He meditated resentfully on the physical texture of life. Had it always been like this? Had food always tasted like this? He looked round the canteen. A low ceilinged, crowded room, its walls grimy from the contact of innumerable bodies, battered metal and chain, placed so close together that you sat with elbows touching, bent spoons, dented trays, coarse white marks; all surfaces greasy, grime in every crack, and a sourish, composite smell of bad gin and bad coffee and metallic stew and dirty clothes.

- (a) G. Leech (1981) had carefully distinguished seven [7] types of meaning showing how they all fit into the total composite effect of linguistic communication. Choose any three [3] out of these seven [7] types of meaning and discuss them. (Provide examples where necessary.)

AND

- (b) With reference to the passage above, discuss the words with associative meaning and the effect they have on the reader.
2. Ullman (1972) states that "for a linguistic study of meaning, the basic triangle offers both too little and too much". Elaborate on this statement. What was Bloomfield's criticism of this basic triangle?
3. Some linguists are of the view that we should limit the study of semantics to sense relations. To what extent do you agree with this viewpoint? Can we actually exclude context from the study of semantics?

SECTION B - Answer any TWO [2] questions

4. (a) Things and people participate in the real world situations described by sentences in different ways. The notion of 'participant role' adds a new (and maybe, more precise) dimension to the study of sense relations.

Explain this notion of 'participant role'. How does it improve the study of sense relations?

- (b) Some semanticists propose that the participant role should be included as part of the dictionary entry of a word.

What is your opinion? Elaborate.

5. (a) What does the study of logic deal with? What concepts are fundamental to logic?

- (b) There are certain words that have been singled out by logicians and are thought of as belonging to the logical vocabulary.

What are these words called and why are they fundamental to logic?

6. The relation between semantics and pragmatics has remained a matter of fundamental disagreement. There are three [3] distinct positions:
- (a) Pragmatics should be subsumed under semantics.
 - (b) Semantics should be subsumed under pragmatics.
 - (c) Semantics and pragmatics are distinct fields of study and are complementary.

Which position do you agree with? Discuss.

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