

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA  
Peperiksaan Semester Pertama  
Sidang 1990/91

October/November 1990

HET 401 - Semantik Bahasa Inggeris

Masa: [3 jam]

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This Examination paper contains SIX (6) questions in TWO (2) pages.

Answer FOUR (4) questions. TWO (2) each from Section A and B.

Equal marks are allocated to All questions.

SECTION A - Answer any TWO (2) questions

1. Semantics, as the study of meaning, is central to the study of communication. It represents "all that is communicated by language". The need to understand it becomes more and more pressing. G. Leech, carefully distinguished types of meaning showing how they all fit into the total composite effect of linguistic communication. State and then discuss Leech's various types of meaning.

2. Write briefly on eight (8) of the following semantic concepts.

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) proposition          | (f) universe of discourse |
| (b) reference            | (g) predicate/predicator  |
| (c) sense                | (h) definiteness          |
| (d) referring expression | (i) deixis                |
| (e) equative sentence    | (j) entailment            |

3. Prototypes, stereotypes would all be within the realm of interest for a descriptive semanticist. Discuss the relationships between these concepts/terms, and illustrate your discussion with examples for a common noun such as house, tree, or bird.

SECTION B - Answer any TWO (2) questions

4. Explain the following terms and discuss the role each concept plays in the semantics of English.
  - (a) logic
  - (b) participant roles.
5. Why is a dictionary definition alone insufficient as the 'meaning' of a word? Discuss.
6. Has the study of semantics benefitted from all the attention on context? Is context vital in the interpretation of meaning?

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