

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Kedua

Sidang 1986/87

HET 404 - Bahasa Inggeris dalam Kesusasteraan
Serantau Semasa

Tarikh: 17 April 1987

Masa: 9.00 pagi - 12.00 t/hari
(3 Jam)

Answer all FIVE(5) questions. Support your answers with specific examples from texts. Do not repeat points and materials.

1. EITHER

- (a) "The local fiction writer above all has to be interested, not in politics, but in his people whose lives and actions his work mirrors, his mirror polished by caustic observation which originates equally in love and in criticism." says Shirley Lim.

Do you agree? Discuss any one novel (written in English in Singapore or Malaysia) in the light of the above quotation.

OR

- (b) Raja Rao, an Indian novelist said that "one has to convey in a language that is not one's own, the spirit that is one's own."

Discuss how any novelist or novelists in this region have responded to the need to "convey a spirit that is one's own" in using the English language.

(20 marks)

2. EITHER

- (a) Edwin Thumboo states that "...the poets gradually settled down to the proper business of poetry.... social and political comment and personal history came to be sustained by an individual view of life. This shaping vision strengthened the poetry and enabled the poem to work in a fundamental way."

Do you agree with him? Evaluate the works of any poet or poets writing in this region.

OR

- (b) Select a poet whose poems in your view successfully convey a "Malaysian" or "Singaporean" identity. Discuss this poet's use of local materials and themes.

(20 marks)

3. EITHER

- (a) It has been claimed that good drama is the "successful communication of a socially relevant message or theme through visible actions on a stage."

Do you agree? Discuss, with references to any one local playwright's work or works (written in English in Singapore or Malaysia).

OR

- (b) K.S. Maniam says "The real problems are passed over and minor ones sensationalized, leading to cultural insulation and social isolation. We've ethnic plays, not ethical ones."

Is this a fair assessment of English theatre in this region? Discuss

(20 marks)

4. EITHER

- (a) Talking about the short story form, T. Wigneswaran said that "it is the significant art form in Malaysian English writing."

Discuss the validity of this claim with specific reference to short stories that you have studied.

OR

- (b) Would you agree with Lloyd Fernando who states in the introduction to 22 Malaysian Stories: "But as most of the stories here show, the diversity of our own experience offers an overwhelming challenge to which writers in English have, on the whole responded"?

Discuss.

(20 marks)

5. EITHER

- (a) What would you say are the predominant characteristics of the emergent literature in English of Singapore and Malaysia?

Discuss.

OR

- (b) Discuss how writers, playwrights, poets and essayists have coped with problems arising from their choice of writing in English in Singapore and Malaysia. Your answer can be limited to a single form specifically, or many in general.

(20 marks)

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