

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Kedua

Sidang 1987/88

HET 404 - Bahasa Inggeris dalam Kesusasteraan
Serantau Semasa

Tarikh: 6 April 1988

Masa: 9.00 pagi - 12.00 tengahari
(3 jam)

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

1. EITHER

- (a) Do you think all short stories should have "expositions, development and drama" (O'Connors)?

Discuss with reference to short stories that you have read on this course.

OR

- (b) Would you agree that the stories that you have read affirm "simply a fidelity to the region as a whole, a region consisting of many population groups... each to some extent astray in unfamiliar conditions which demand a breaking out from old patterns" (L. Fernando)?

2. EITHER

- (a) Would you agree with Raja Rao when he says "one has to convey in a language that is not one's own, the spirit that is one's own"?

Discuss with reference to either a single novel, or novels written in English in this region.

OR

- (b) "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" (Shirley Lim).

Discuss the above comment in the light of your reading of either a novel or novels written in English in this region.

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3. EITHER

- (a) Evaluate the view that "Playwrights... are not wrestling with the fundamental issues of Malaysian society..." (Krishen Jit) with reference to the plays that you have studied during this course.

OR

- (b) K.S. Maniam says "Malaysian literature in English has a function; holding a mirror up to its immigrant self."

Is this view acceptable? Evaluate with reference to drama in English in this region.

4. EITHER

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

OR

- (b) Would you agree with the old view that "Many Malaysians, having studied poets writing in a tradition which at present is at its height of emotional and intellectual complexity try to write also in a philosophical mood which is not in the 'Malayan consciousness' at all; they make a pretence of concern with 'cosmic' matters, a concern intellectual only, unsupported by any real emotional or physical experience" (C.J. Francis)?

Discuss with reference to Malaysian or Singaporean poetry written in English.

5. EITHER

- (a) Discuss with reference to actual texts how writers in this region have responded to an often suggested need to domesticate the English language.

OR

- (b) "To be a Malaysian and to write in English can be frustratingly opposing activities" says K.S. Maniam.

Discuss.