

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Kedua
Sidang 1989/90

Mac/April 1990

HET 404 Bahasa Inggeris dalam Kesusasteraan
Serantau Semasa

Masa: [3 jam]

This examination paper contains FIVE (5) questions in THREE (3) pages.

Answer ALL questions. Support your answers with specific examples from texts. Do not repeat points and materials.

1. George Fernandez lamented in 1983 that

"We have had the English language for more than 160 years, but we have not produced any writer of world class".

Is this a fair assessment? Based on your readings, discussions and interviews, discuss what you consider to be the problems and achievements of local writers using the English language.

(20 marks)

2. EITHER

[a] Discuss the view that

"Nobody can write for an audience to which he does not belong, and the best work... has always been done by people who were concerned only with pleasing themselves. The writer must trust his own material; he must believe in his own convictions; he must write with full emotional sincerity".

and evaluate the work of any one novelist in the region writing in English.

.../2

OR

- [b] Evaluate any one novel written in English in this region from the view that *"one has to convey in a language that is not one's own, the spirit that is one's own"* (Raja Rao).

(20 marks)

3. EITHER

- [a] Robert Yeo suggests that

"... a plot, economy and implication in narration, and selectivity are three elements that can be expected in a short story. The presence of any two of these will justify... selection..."

Discuss how well the English short stories of any one writer in the region measure up to these criteria.

OR

- [b] Lloyd Fernando suggests that

"... the imaginative portrayal of experience, however it may be limited to this or that social group, is probably at this stage the only reliable way to seek to locate the enigmatic centre of the Southeast Asian experience with its confusingly various atavistic pulls".

Discuss and evaluate the short stories that you have read during the course in the light of the above comment.

(20 marks)

4. EITHER

- [a] What would you suggest are the characteristics of poetry written in English in this region? Discuss with reference to the works of at least one poet.

OR

- [b] Discuss with specific examples, the style of any local poet writing in English.

(20 marks)

5. EITHER

[a] Would you agree with the view that

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

Discuss, in the context of drama in English in the region.

OR

[b] 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.

(20 marks)

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