

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama  
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HET 405 SOSIOLINGUISTIK

[3 jam]

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THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS SIX [6] QUESTIONS IN TWO [2] PAGES.

Answer FOUR [4] questions.

Equal marks are allocated to All questions.

1. (a) Consider the following sentences. What would be your reaction to the people who use them?
    - i. Nobody ain't done nothin.
    - ii. This unseemly incident was unfortunately perpetrated by members of our own organization.
    - iii. See the cute doggy go bow-wow at the nasty man.
    - iv. My shirt needs cleaned.
    - v. Madam! You are looking most charming today.
  - (b) How does language influence attitudes towards speakers?
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2. The terms below implicitly reflect the unequal status of men and women in society. Ingrained in the corresponding 'female' terms are derogatory meanings.
    - master / mistress
    - bachelor / spinster
    - sir / madam
    - star / starlet
    - wizard / witch

- (a) Identify the derogatory meanings.
  - (b) Some scholars believe that 'language reflects reality.' Discuss this in the light of gender differences in language and with reference to what has been said above.
3. "The ethnography of communication takes language first and foremost as a socially situated cultural form..."

Saville - Troike (1982: 3)

Critically discuss this statement. Include ideas proposed by Dell Hymes in your discussion.

4. Trace the development of Malaysia as a multicultural and multilingual country and indicate how the educational system has been used as a means of creating a sense of national unity.
5. What is a 'standard language' and how does it come about? How does it differ from a dialect? Discuss these with reference to both Hudson's and Wardaugh's works.
6. Many regard pidgins and creoles as 'inferior varieties', and as such do not warrant special attention. The following excerpt of a letter about the use of creole in Trinidad attest to this.

If the language of the barrack yard and the market is to be the accepted mode of expression in the school-room ... there would be no need for teachers ... we could save the huge wages of these experts and set them free to go and plant peas ... where they can give full vent to this dialect stuff ... what, if not broken English, is this dialect? ... I feel that such discussions should be banned from our news media as a most damaging ... exercise.

(Wardaugh: p. 84)

What is your opinion? Are pidgins and creoles 'legitimate' varieties? Explain and exemplify.