

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama  
Sidang 1991/92

Oktober/November 1991

HET 405 Sosiolinguistik

Masa: [3 jam]

---

This Examination paper contains EIGHT [8] questions in TWO [2] pages.

Answer FOUR [4] questions, ONE [1] question from each of the four Sections A, B, C and D.

Equal marks are allocated to ALL questions.

SECTION A

1. What do you regard as the characteristics of a 'good' speaker of English and of a 'poor' speaker? Consider such matters as pronunciation, word choice, syntactic choice, fluency and style.
2. How would you argue that no variety of a language is intrinsically better than another and that what happens is largely the result of the chance interplay of external forces?

SECTION B

3. Under what conditions do you think it might be possible to have a society in which everyone was bilingual in the same two languages? How might such a situation arise? What prognosis might you offer concerning the future of the two languages?
4. When you visit a foreign country whose language you know, either well or poorly, when do you use that language and when do you not?

What factors govern your choice?

.../2

SECTION C

5. Is social structure continuously created and re-created out of the behaviour of individuals, or is individual behaviour fashioned to meet the requirements of an ongoing social structure?

Would sociolinguists be able to participate in a discussion of questions of this kind? Or is this a riddle best left to philosophers?

6. How does one address a stranger? Does the form of address depend in any way on factors such as that person's sex, age, ethnicity, dress, perceived role, physical well-being, or behaviour? Is it true to say that the primary consideration in addressing strangers is 'be polite' and therefore 'be deferential'? Explain.

SECTION D

7. To what extent is linguistic information essential in language planning? Discuss with examples.
8. Standard languages are usually based on an existing dialect of the language. For example, the British variety of English is based, historically at least, on the dialect of the area surrounding London and Continental French on the dialect of Paris.

How relevant is this statement to the situation in your country? Discuss in the context of bahasa Melayu in Malaysia.

-ooo000ooo-