
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination
Academic Session 2006/2007

October/November 2006

HXE 306 – SOCIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY OF LANGUAGE

Duration : 3 hours

Please check that this examination paper consists of TWO pages of printed material before you begin the examination.

INSTRUCTIONS:

This paper contains SIX questions. Answer TWO questions from Section A and TWO questions from Section B. All questions carry the same marks.

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Section A [50 marks]

Answer ANY TWO questions from this Section.

1. Discuss the general properties or design features of human language. Is human language species specific? You may discuss your answer by referring to various experiments which have been conducted in order to teach human language to non-human primates.
[25 marks]
2. Define the 'Critical Period Hypothesis'. Analyse and discuss the evidence that are commonly used to support the hypothesis.
[25 marks]
3. Explain any FIVE of the following terms:
 - [i] The Cohort Model of Word Recognition.
 - [ii] Dichotic Listening Test.
 - [iii] Phonemic Paraphasia.
 - [iv] Perseveration and Anticipation Errors in Speech Production.
 - [v] The Innateness Hypothesis.
 - [vi] Telegraphic Stage in Language Acquisition.

[25 marks]

Section B [50 marks]

Answer ANY TWO questions from this Section.

4. What is meant by 'standard', as in 'standard English'? Discuss the idea of 'standard language' and how it relates to [i] the idea of correctness, and [ii] the idea of prestige.
[25 marks]
5. How does women's speech differ from men's speech? Discuss, with examples.
[25 marks]
6. Distinguish, with examples, between code switching and code mixing. Discuss the factors which influence code switching.
[25 marks]