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UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination  
Academic Session 2006/2007

April 2007

**HET 123 – A STUDY OF LANGUAGE**

Duration : 3 hours

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

Answer ALL questions.

**Section A**

1. Using appropriate examples, explain the following terms:
  - [a] Prescriptive grammars
  - [b] Linguistic determinism
  - [c] The innateness hypothesis
  - [d] The critical-age hypothesis

[20 marks]
  
2. [a] Provide the **phonetic transcription** for each of the following words:
  - [i] sing
  - [ii] mystery
  - [iii] kin
  - [iv] design
  - [v] car

[5 marks]

[b] Describe the phonological process that occurs to the letters in bold in each of the words above.

[10 marks]
  
3. [a] With appropriate examples, define the following concepts:
  - [i] Bound and free morphemes
  - [ii] Derivational and inflectional morphemes

[10 marks]

- [b] Divide the following words into their constituent morphemes by placing a plus sign (+) between the morphemes.

- [i] hunters
- [ii] recovered
- [iii] morphology
- [iv] inflammable
- [v] conference

[5 marks]

### Section B

4. Define **phrase structure tree** and draw a tree diagram for the following sentence.

*The woman in the cottage gave an apple to the horse.*

[10 marks]

5. Briefly discuss the following terms.

- [a] Euphemisms
- [b] Heads and complements
- [c] Maxims of Conversation
- [d] Parameters
- [e] Isogloss

[25 marks]

6. Explain the semantic ambiguity of the following sentences by providing two or more sentences that paraphrase the multiple meanings.

- [a] *That sheepdog is too hairy to eat.*
- [b] *I cannot recommend him too highly.*
- [c] *David loves his wife and so do I.*

[9 marks]

7. State one example of performative verb and explain its use.

[6 marks]