
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination
Academic Session 2007/2008

October/November 2007

HET 311 - SEMANTICS

Duration: 3 hours

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

There are SEVEN questions altogether. Answer FOUR questions.

1. Having the semantic knowledge of a language does not mean that a speaker of the language can define the meanings of all the words of the language. However, he or she can show or demonstrate this knowledge. Elaborate on five of the ten aspects of any speaker's semantic knowledge highlighted in Kreidler's (1998) discussion.

[25 marks]

2. Discuss how conceptual metaphor is different from orientational metaphor. Clarify with examples.

[25 marks]

3. How do the concepts of *deixis*, *context of utterance*, *universe of discourse* and *definiteness* contribute towards the understanding of linguistic meaning? Discuss your answer by providing definitions and detailed explanations of the concepts. Support with examples.

[25 marks]

4. According to Leech (1981), the phatic function, 'robs conceptual meaning of its central position in the communication process'. What does Leech mean by this? Discuss why you agree or disagree with his statement.

[25 marks]

5. Discuss why you agree or disagree that polysemy is different from sense-generalality. Support your answer with clear definitions and examples.

[25 marks]

6. Between the Image Theory of meaning and the Componential Analysis, which one, in your opinion, captures the nature of word meaning more effectively? Why?

[25 marks]

7. Discuss the relationship(s) between the concepts of inference, entailment and implicature. Support your answer with clear examples.

[25 marks]