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UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination  
Academic Session 2006/2007

October/November 2006

**HET 313 - SOCIOLINGUISTICS**

Duration : 3 hours

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

This examination paper contains SIX questions.

Answer ANY FOUR questions.

Equal marks are allocated to all questions.

1. Summarise M.A.K. Halliday's analysis of the seven principle purposes or uses of language. Drawing upon your own experience, give examples of each use.

[25 marks]

2. It has been claimed that the dynamics of communication is an integral element driving the global economy. Should there be any real relevance between sociolinguistic issues and economics? Discuss, with examples.

[25 marks]

3. "In order to understand gender differences in language, it is important to look at women's and men's lifestyles in different communities: whom they interact with, and what might motivate them to adopt certain varieties."

(Swann, 2000)

To what extent is Swann right? What are your reasons?

[25 marks]

4. Many people in the world are completely bilingual or even multilingual in languages with very different structures. Consider this fact in relation to the Whorfian hypothesis. What are some of the implications?

[25 marks]

5. "In a vibrant multicultural society like Malaysia, it is inevitable that the vernacular languages find their way into the English language and influence the way English is spoken by Malaysians."

(Sue Kim, 1998)

Assess this observation in relation to the variety/varieties of English in Malaysia.

[25 marks]

6. McKay (1996) claims that literacy is an essential component of the study of Sociolinguistics. What kind of evidence would you consider to be relevant to confirm or disconfirm such a claim?

[25 marks]