
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
Academic Session 2006/2007

April 2007

HET 323 – CONTRASTIVE AND ERROR ANALYSIS

Duration : 3 hours

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

Answer any FOUR questions. All questions carry the same marks.

1. CA is based on the psychological assumption that the principal barrier to second language acquisition is the interference of the first language (L1) system with the second language (L2) system; and that a scientific, structural analysis of the two languages in question would yield a taxonomy of linguistic contrast between them which in turn would enable the linguist to predict the difficulties a learner would encounter.

Discuss.

[25 marks]

2. Words have *form*, *meaning* and *distribution*. Discuss these elements of words in the context of any language that you know and demonstrate how one goes about executing a CA of the vocabulary system of two languages [You can assume Bahasa Malaysia to be the native language (L1) and English the second language (L2) in Malaysia].

[25 marks]

3. One of the most significant contributions of Error Analysis has been the recognition of sources of error that extend beyond interlingual error.

Discuss.

[25 marks]

4. Ellis (2004) states that language-learner language is characterized by variability. According to him, at any different stage of development, the learner's interlanguage system will contain a number of competing rules, with one rule guiding performance on one occasion and another rule on a different occasion.

Discuss.

[25 marks]

5. Selinker (1994) suggests the likelihood of the state known as '**fossilisation**' which is assumed to exist in the latent psychological structure of an interlanguage (IL) system. It is a state where language learners stop elaborating their IL in some respects irrespective of the amount of explanation and instruction the learners have to the new linguistic input or new language instruction.

Discuss.

[25 marks]