UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Kursus Semasa Cuti Panjang
Sidang Akademik 2006/2007

June 2007

HET 512 - LINGUISTIC STUDIES

Duration: 3 hours

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

Answer **FOUR** questions. All questions carry equal marks**.**

1. Would you argue against the statement that the patterning of phonemes and allophones is language-specific? Why or why not? Support your answer with data from English and another language (you could use data from your L1).

2. Although there is an infinite number of sentences in any human language, it is possible to write a finite set of rules that generates them. This is because of two special properties of PS rules. Identify the rules and discuss them.

3. What is the nature of affixation in English? Discuss this with regard to the issue of whether a given affix in English attaches itself only to one part of speech. Support with examples.

4. Discuss what is meant by The Principle of Compositionality. Make reference to the representation of structural ambiguity and the assignment of thematic (semantic) roles in discussing your answer. Support your answer with examples.

5. Discuss what it means to say that someone 'knows' his or her language?

6. Would you equate language change with language decay? Why or why not?

- ooo0ooo -