
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination
Academic Session 2006/2007

October/November 2006

HET 512 - LINGUISTIC STUDIES

Masa: 3 jam

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

There are SIX questions altogether. Answer FOUR questions. Each question is 25 marks.

1. Would you equate language change with language decay? Why or why not? Discuss.
2. Linguists generally delineate between two types of morphology, concatenative and non-concatenative. What essentially defines whether a particular morphological operation is one and not the other? Discuss this with regard to two morphological operations. Include definitions and examples.
3. 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.
4. 'In the comparison of human language and animal communication systems, a debate has arisen about whether the two systems are *qualitatively* or *quantitatively* different' (Tserdanelis & Wong, 2004). What is your stand on this issue? Discuss.
5. 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).
6. Discuss the principles of linear order and hierarchical structure in sentence organisation.