UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Kursus Semasa Cuti Panjang
Sidang Akademik 2007/2008

June 2008

HET 521 - PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY OF LANGUAGE

Duration : 3 hours

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

Answer FOUR questions. Answer TWO questions from Section A and TWO question from Section B.

Section A

1. "Theories of language development differ in the weight that they ascribe to various dimensions that characterise language" (Berko-Gleason, 1998). Discuss this point by comparing and contrasting two of the five approaches to child language acquisition with respect to nativism-empiricism.

    [25 marks]

2. Discuss how the Constraint Satisfaction Model accounts for sentence processing. Use appropriate examples to illustrate and support your discussion.

    [25 marks]

3. Research on the acquisition of language contributes to a description of language acquisition process and provides clues about linguistic development. Researchers concerned with these matters draw on two basic methods. Discuss the two methods and highlight the approach you consider to be more advantageous.

    [25 marks]

Section B

4. The practice of code-switching is often viewed negatively by monolingual and bilingual speakers alike. It is often considered as low prestige form, incorrect, poor language, or a result of incomplete mastery of two languages. Discuss, with appropriate examples, the attitudes of the community towards code-switching in the Malaysian context.

    [25 marks]

5. Rapid loss and endangerment of languages are occurring on a global scale. Discuss, with appropriate examples, some of the causes of this and the consequences it might have especially for speakers of minority languages.

    [25 marks]

6.   The topic of language and gender is usually discussed under these aspects:

[a]   language used **by** women and men

[b]   language used **about** women and men

[c]   **how** language is used by women and men

Discuss each of the above and support your answer with appropriate examples.

[25 marks]

- ooo0ooo -