

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Kedua

Sidang Akademik 1997/98

Februari 1998

HET 224 Gaya Dalam Kesusasteraan Semasa Dalam Bahasa Inggeris

Masa: [3 jam]

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THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS FOUR [4] QUESTIONS IN TWO [2] PAGES.

Answer ALL questions. Each question carries equal marks of 25.

1. **Either**

a) Would you agree that a

“distinctive contribution of a regional literature to a world literature... may be to consist in giving ‘a local habitation and a name’ to themes that in the abstract are of ultimate concern to all humanity” (John Kwan Terry, 1984)?

Discuss this statement with specific exemplification from works that you consider to be representative of a region.

**Or**

b) Discuss, with specific exemplification, how writers from this region have coped with the problems arising out of their decision to write in the English language.

2. Edwin Thumboo has stated that

“...the poets gradually settled down to the proper business of poetry...social and political comment and personal history came to be sustained by an individual view of life. This shaping vision strengthened the poetry and enabled the poem to work in a fundamental way.”

Is this a fair comment on poetry written in English today? Discuss with examples.

.../2

3. One critic suggested that the short story is “the significant art form in Malaysian English writing.”

Do you agree? What would you claim to be significant about the Malaysian short story in English, as exemplified by the works that we have studied on the course?

4. Raja Rao suggests that

“one has to convey in a language that is not one’s own, the spirit that is one’s own.”

Is such a “spirit” essential, or would you use other yardsticks to measure the worth of novels written in this region. Discuss, with reference to novels in general, or one novel specifically.