
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination
Academic Session 2007/2008

October/November 2007

**HXE 209 – LINGUISTICS I
(PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY OF ENGLISH)**

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 questions from Section B.

Section A

1. Explain the term airstream mechanism. Give an account of the various mechanisms used in human speech. Illustrate your answer with diagrams and examples.
[25 marks]
2. Discuss three parameters that are involved in the articulation of vowels. Use illustrations to explain your answer.
[25 marks]
3. Discuss the suprasegmental features of English using appropriate examples for each of these features.
[25 marks]
4. Discuss at least three phonological processes in English.
[25 marks]

Section B

5. Discuss, with examples, how new words can be invented through word formation processes such as 'shortening', 'back formation', 'conversion', 'onomatopoeia' and 'clipping'.
[25 marks]
6. Discuss the differences between 'inflectional' and 'derivational' morphemes. Then divide each of the following words into morphemes, derivational affixes and inflectional affixes.
 - [a] houses
 - [b] contrastive
 - [c] unproductive
 - [d] sisterhood
 - [e] conversational

- [f] protection
- [g] drowned
- [h] reconditioned
- [i] melodies
- [j] thickeners

[25 marks]

7. Discuss the notion of allomorph. Include in your discussion the following notions:

- [a] weak and strong suppletive
- [b] phonological conditioning
- [c] morphological conditioning
- [d] lexical conditioning

[25 marks]