
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
2015/2016 Academic Session

June 2016

HET 524 – PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY OF LANGUAGE

Duration : 2 hours

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

Answer THREE questions. Answer ONE question from Section A, ONE question from Section B and ONE question from EITHER Section A OR Section B.

Section A

1. While L1 and L2 acquisition shares certain underlying psychological processes, it has now become clear that there are also differences between them. Dörnyei (2009) lists eight salient differences between the two processes. Discuss any FIVE of the differences and support your answer with relevant examples.

[100 marks]

2. Would a cognitivist support the claim that language acquisition is innate? Why or why not? Support your discussion with examples.

[100 marks]

3. What do the terms local ambiguity and standing ambiguity refer to? Discuss how these types of ambiguity have contributed to the understanding of sentence processing and the TWO models of sentence processing. Provide clear examples to support your answer.

[100 marks]

Section B

4. The term language spread is sometimes used to describe the process whereby the users of a language increase (Cooper, 1982). Discuss how English can be considered as a language that has spread the most in the modern world.

[100 marks]

5. Using the concept of ethnolinguistic vitality proposed by Giles, Bourhis and Taylor (1977), discuss how language shift can be slowed down or reversed. Include in your answer an example of a particular minority language or an indigenous language.

[100 marks]

6. With reference to Fishman's (1972) domain theoretical construct, discuss the concept of domain specificity in bilingual or multilingual speech communities. Support your answer with appropriate examples.

[100 marks]