

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination
Academic Session 2004/2005

October 2004

HXE 306 – Sociology and Psychology of Language

Duration : 3 hours

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

Instructions: This paper contains **SIX** questions. Answer **TWO** questions from **SECTION A** and **TWO** questions from **SECTION B**. All questions carry the same marks.

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SECTION A

1. Discuss the neuroanatomical structures of the language areas of the brain and the neural pathways that are involved in speech production, reading aloud and speech comprehension.
[25 marks]
2. Define the 'Critical Period Hypothesis'. Analyse and discuss the evidence that are commonly used to support the hypothesis.
[25 marks]
3. Explain any FIVE of the following terms:
 - [a] Categorical Speech Perception
 - [b] Lateralisation of Function in the brain
 - [c] Mental lexicon
 - [d] Garden Path Model
 - [e] Wada Test
 - [f] Language Acquisition Device[25 marks]

SECTION B

4. Rapid loss and endangerment of languages are occurring on a global scale. What are some of the causes of this and what consequences might they have, especially for speakers of minority languages?
[25 marks]
5. [a] What is code-switching?
[b] Discuss how it is different from other kinds of language choice and the factors that make speakers code-switch.
[25 marks]
6. [a] What is linguistic relativism?
[b] Discuss, with examples, the notion that people in different cultures analyse the world in different ways due to differences in the vocabulary of their language.
[25 marks]