

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
Academic Session 2004/2005

March 2005

HET 223 – Psycholinguistics

Duration : 3 hours

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

Answer any FOUR questions. All questions carry the same marks.

1. Discuss the main characteristics of language. Is language species-specific?

You may discuss your answer by referring to various experiments which have been conducted in order to teach human language to non-human primates.

[25 marks]

2. Discuss in detail a type of aphasia that involves a loss of syntactic knowledge and phonological knowledge.

[25 marks]

3. Discuss various models which have been commonly used by theorists in explaining syntactic parsing of ambiguous sentences.

[25 marks]

4. One of the major questions pertaining to language acquisition is the issue of '*nature*' vs '*nurture*' i.e. to what extent is language acquisition *hardwired* into the human brain (*nature*), and to what extent is it learned through interaction with the environment (*nurture*)?

Discuss.

[25 marks]

5. Discuss briefly any FIVE of the following terms:

- [a] Angular Gyrus
- [b] Hemispherectomy
- [c] Positron Emission Tomography (PET Scan)
- [d] Agrammatism
- [e] Anticipation and Perseveration Errors
- [f] Categorical Perception of voicing Contrast.

[25 marks]