

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
Academic Session 2004/2005

March 2005

HET 311 - Semantics

Duration: 3 hours

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

Answer FOUR questions. Questions 5 and 6 are compulsory.

EITHER

1. Directive language, according to Leech (1981), 'capitalizes on the affective and associative power of words' which often results in conceptual meaning being subordinated to associative meaning. What does Leech mean by this? Do you agree with his claim? Why?

OR

2. What does Leech (1981) mean by the terms *Associative Engineering*, *Conceptual Engineering* and *Positions*. How do they compare and contrast with each other with regard to the type of meaning that is manipulated in each one? Discuss and provide relevant examples to clarify your answer.

[30 marks]

EITHER

3. Having the semantic knowledge of a language does not mean that a speaker of the language can define the meanings of all the words of the language. However, he or she can show or demonstrate this knowledge. Elaborate on five of the ten aspects of any speaker's semantic knowledge highlighted in Kreidler's (1998) discussion.

OR

4. Discuss the following statement: 'Some sentences which contain ambiguous words are ambiguous while others are not, and some sentences which contain no ambiguous words are ambiguous while others are not'.

[20 marks]

5. Do you agree with Lakoff and Johnson's (1980) claim that the conceptual metaphor ARGUMENT IS WAR is reflected in our everyday language in a variety of expressions? Provide evidence for your answer. How is conceptual metaphor different from orientational metaphor? Clarify with examples.

[25 marks]

6. How do the concepts of *deixis*, *context of utterance*, *universe of discourse* and *definiteness* contribute towards the understanding of linguistic meaning? Discuss your answer by providing definitions and detailed explanations of the concepts. Support with examples.

[25 marks]