

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.

...2/-

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]