

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination  
Academic Session 2004/2005

October 2004

**HET 311 - Semantics**

Duration: 3 hours

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

Answer **FOUR** questions.

...2/-

1. Elaborate on the distinction and relationship between *utterances*, *sentences* and *propositions*.

[25 marks]

2. The terms *deixis*, *context of utterance*, *universe of discourse* and *definiteness* are central to the issue of reference. Why is this so? Support your answer with examples.

(25 marks)

3. EITHER

- [a] According to Leech (1981), the phatic function, 'robs conceptual meaning of its central position in the communication process'. What does Leech mean by this? Do you agree with his statement? Why?

[25 marks]

OR

- [b] Which type of meaning, according to Leech, does *directive language* capitalize on? Discuss and provide relevant examples to clarify your answer.

[25 marks]

4. EITHER

- [a] Discuss why you agree or disagree with the following statement. 'Some sentences which contain ambiguous words are ambiguous while others are not, and some sentence which contain no ambiguous words are ambiguous while others are not'.

[25 marks]

OR

- [b] *Extension*, on the one hand is like *sense*, and unlike *reference*. On the other hand, *extension* is like *reference* and unlike *sense*. Discuss and clarify your answer with examples.

[25 marks]