

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination
Academic Session 2004/2005

October 2004

HET 313 - Sociolinguistics

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.

Equal marks are allocated to all questions.

1. Summarize M.A.K. Halliday's analysis of the seven principle purposes or uses of language. Drawing upon your own experience, give an example of each use.
2. Basil Bernstein has claimed that some children acquire only a rather limited exposure to language as a result of their upbringing and are consequently penalized in school. What kind of evidence would you consider to be relevant to confirming or disconfirming such a claim?
3. Ferdinand de Saussure claimed that speech was totally individual, in that it depended only on the will of the speaker and conversely that language was entirely social, being identical from one member of a speech community to another. To what extent was de Saussure right? Discuss with examples.
4. EITHER

[a] "The best option for regional governments is to promote local varieties of English. Instead of spending large sums of money on importing native-speaking teachers and externally developed materials, funding should be set aside for the professional development of local teachers and for the development of developing regionally appropriate ELT curricula."
(Kirkpatrick, 2000)

To what extent is Kirkpatrick right? Give your reasons.

OR

[b] "While English is the International lingua franca, the different varieties of English that have evolved are part of the unique linguistic and cultural heritage of each country"
(Su Kim, 1998)

Assess this observation in relation to the variety/varieties of English in Malaysia.

5. "Pidginized varieties of a language are 'corrupt' and 'ungrammatical' and their speakers are either 'lazy' or 'inferior'".

What opinions do you have on this matter, and what evidences seem to support your answer?