

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama
Sidang Akademik 2002/2003

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HXE 306 – Sociology and Psychology of Language

Masa : 3 jam

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

- This paper contains **SIX [6]** questions in **TWO [2]** pages.
- Answer **FOUR [4]** questions: **TWO [2]** questions from Section A and **TWO [2]** questions from Section B.
- Section A and Section B carry equal marks.

SECTION A: (50 marks)

Answer any **TWO** [2] questions from this Section.

1. Discuss, with examples, three possible explanations for the observation that women tend to be “better at” language (Holmes, 2001; Wardhaugh, 1992).
[25 marks]
2. “Code-switching is the alternation of two languages within a single discourse, sentence or constituent” (Poplack, 1987). Describe code-switching in the Malaysian speech community.
[25 marks]
3. Do linguistic structures affect cognitive structures, the way we think and the way we perceive the world? Discuss.
[25 marks]

SECTION B: (50 marks)

Answer any **TWO** [2] questions from this Section.

4. To what extent is there a critical period for second language acquisition? Discuss.
[25 marks]
5. “Human beings are born with an innate capacity for language which enable them to learn their first language on the basis of a very small amount of data” (Steinberg, 1993; Pinker, 1995). Discuss.
[25 marks]
6. [a] How and when do children develop an initial grammar of the language they are acquiring?
[b] What are the subsequent stages do they go through in their grammatical development?
[25 marks]