

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama  
Sidang Akademik 2002/2003

September 2002

**HET 313 - Sociolinguistics**

Masa : 3 jam

**THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS FIVE [5] QUESTIONS IN TWO [2] PAGES.**

Answer **any FOUR** [4] 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. 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.
3. Wardaugh (1997) makes the following observation about the relationship between language and gender:  
  
...men's and women's speech differs because boys and girls are brought up differently and men and women often fill different roles in society. Moreover, men and women "know" this and react in different ways, for example, seeking "prestige" differently, women on the whole preferring "overt" prestige and men the "covert" variety.
4. 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?

...2/-

5. Asmah (1992) says that the recognition accorded to English as the second most important language in Malaysia does not in any way interfere with the status of Malay as national and official language as well as language of education. To what extent is Asmah right? Discuss your answer in relation to the different roles assigned to these two languages.

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