

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama
Sidang Akademik 2003/2004

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HET 512 – Linguistic Studies

Masa : 3 jam

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER COMPRISES **TWO** PAGES.

There are six questions altogether. Answer FOUR questions. Each question is 25 marks.

Questions 1 and 2 must be answered.

1. The linguistic phenomenon known as language change has, in the past, been regarded by some scholars as a negative process. Why? What are your own views on language change? Discuss this in the context of the changes that you observe are taking place either in English, Malay or in your own first language.
2. 'You know a word by its reputation'. Discuss this with reference to the semantic concepts that Jeffries (1998) alludes to in her own discussion. Be sure to elaborate on the concepts and exemplify with English and/or Malay words that you consider as having a certain 'reputation'.

EITHER

3. Everyday speech contains a great deal of phonetic variation. Whilst some of it is due to extralinguistic factors, much of it is phonetically conditioned. "This variation occurs because segments are affected and altered by the phonetic characteristics of neighbouring elements or larger phonological context in which they occur" (O'Grady et. al, 2000). Discuss this with regard to two phonetically conditioned variations.

...2/-

OR

4. Although there is an infinite number of possible sentences in English or any human language, it is possible to write a finite set of rules that generates them. This is because of two special properties of PS rules. Discuss.

EITHER

5. Only a finite number of articulatory processes operate in language, yet their end result is a great deal of linguistic variability. Elaborate on this statement with reference to the relevant processes. Clarify with examples.

OR

6. Regular English verbs form their past tense by adding the suffix *-ed/-d*. Other verbs do not. What might account for this behaviour? Discuss this using the data provided below. Be sure to include a detailed explanation of the morphological processes involved in the changes that the verbs undergo.

Am Bar Break Cough Go Raid Sing Suit Swap Train