

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Kedua
Sidang Akademik 2003/2004

Februari/Mac 2004

HET 521 - Psychology and Sociology of Language

Masa : 3 jam

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

Answer **ALL** questions.

1. **EITHER**

"We enter into human consciousness and social consciousness via our learning of language. To have a subjectivity, to be human, is to have first entered via language into dialogue with others. The 'self' is therefore social since it is a collection of various roles, made up of 'languages' or 'voices' spoken by others. This 'construction' of the self via language has been neglected in sociolinguistics, despite the agreement that speaking involves making 'acts of identity'.

(Mesthrie 322:2000)

What opinions do you have on this matter, and what evidence seems to you to support those opinions?

...2/-

OR

"The official responsibility for education is assigned to particular social institutions-most notably, the school-and not left in the hands of individuals. What people learn in these settings may or may not be consistent with what they learn at home or elsewhere in the community. These home/school language and cultural differences are one of the sources of classroom-related educational problems, and are a topic of great interest for educationally focused sociolinguistics research."

(Leap & Mesthrie, 355: 2000)

To what extent are Leap & Mesthrie right? Give your reasons.

[25 marks]

2. EITHER

Discuss, with examples, the extent to which electronic communication offers alternative positions for girls/women and boys/men and the extent to which it reinforces certain traditional forms of gender difference and disadvantage.

OR

Do men dominate electronic interaction? Is the establishment of women-only lists/bulletin boards a form of feminist resistance to 'Cybermasculinity'? Is it true that communication styles in electronic discussion lists have produced findings that bear a striking similarity to earlier work on face-to-face communication?

Sociolinguistics has nothing to offer in a discussion of questions of this kind: they are really quite meaningless.

Do you agree or disagree? What are your reasons?

[25 marks]

3. How do psycholinguistic investigations of language differ from theoretical linguistic investigations?

[10 marks]

...3/-

4. EITHER

“Theories of language development differ in the weight that they ascribe to various dimensions that characterise language” (Berko-Gleason, 1998). Discuss this point by comparing and contrasting two of the five approaches to child language acquisition with respect to nativism-empiricism and structuralism-functionalism.

OR

There is considerable disagreement among second language acquisition (SLA) researchers/theoreticians as to whether SLA theories should account for variations in interlanguage performance. What are the arguments that have been put forward? What are your own views?

[20 marks]

5. EITHER

One of the issues in syntactic processing is whether syntax is processed separately from meaning. What are the claims that have been made to support this? Do you agree with the claims? Discuss with examples.

OR

What is Acquired Dyslexia? Describe (with examples) the disorder and the cognitive processes researchers think could be ‘going wrong’. Also include anatomical considerations (which part of the brain researchers think is involved, or whether there is controversy over this).

[20 marks]