UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Kedua
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HET 123 – A Study of Language

Masa : 3 jam

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS **SEVEN [7]** QUESTIONS IN **THREE [3]** PAGES.

Choose any **TWO [2]** questions from **Section A** and answer all **FOUR [4]** questions from **Section B. Write your answers for EACH SECTION in SEPARATE sheets of papers.**

SECTION A

1.   "Everybody speaks a language. Five-year-old children are almost as proficient at speaking and understanding as are their parents. Yet the ability to carry out the simplest conversation requires profound knowledge that most speakers are unaware of."

                                                                        (Fromkin, V. and Rodman, R, 1998: 4)

       What do Fromkin and Rodman mean by 'profound knowledge' in the above? Support your answer with examples.

                                                                                                    [25 marks]

2.   Briefly define the following with examples.

[a]   Allophone and Phoneme

[b]   Minimal pairs

[c]   Complementary Distribution

[d]   Nasalisation of vowels

[e]   Aspirated and unaspirated consonants

[25 marks]

3.   Define 'presupposition'. Then consider the following utterances used by a lawyer in a courtroom. In each case, assume the judge has sustained an objection to the questions. What presupposition(s) might have been objected to?

[a]   How did you know that the defendant had bought a knife?

[b]   How long have you been stealing cocaine?

[c]   When was your bracelet stolen?

[d]   Did you see the murdered woman before she left the office?

[e]   How fast was the car going when the driver ran the red light?

[f]   At what time did you telephone your lover?

[g]   Have you stopped being an active gang member?

[h]   Why did you leave the scene of the crime?

[i]   Did you brake before you drove your car into the shop window?

[j]   How did you spend the stolen money?

[25 marks]

SECTION B

4. Explain with examples the functions of inflectional morphemes and derivational morphemes.

    [10 marks]

5. In what way is the concept *mutual intelligibility* significant in sociolinguistics?

    [10 marks)

6. Describe three theories that have been suggested to explain child language acquisition.

    [15 marks]

7. Draw phrase structure trees for the following sentences:

    [a]   The reporter realised that the senator lied

    [b]   The wind forced the boat into the water suddenly

    [c]   That the senator lied disturbed her

    [15 marks]

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