

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Kedua
Sidang Akademik 2000/2001

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HET 521 – Sociological and Psychological Dimensions of Language

Masa : 3 jam

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS FOUR [4] QUESTIONS IN TWO [2] PAGES.

Answer **ALL FOUR [4]** questions.

Equal marks are allocated to all questions.

1. *" A regional variety of English can reflect local or regional cultures. Governments need not fear that the learning of English will necessarily imbue the learners with inappropriate cultural values or ways of thinking. The best option for regional governments is to promote local varieties of English. Instead of spending large sums of money on importing native-speaking teachers and externally developed materials, funding should be set aside for the professional development of local teachers and for the development of developing regionally appropriate ELT curricula."*

(Kirkpatrick, 2000)

Assess this observation in relation to [a] the variety/varieties of English in Malaysia and, [b] what implications would this have for the teaching/learning of English in Malaysia.

...2/-

2. *"To those who view literacy as an individual skill, it may be surprising to see a chapter on literacy in a sociolinguistics text. Yet, for those who view literacy as a social practice, literacy is an essential component of Sociolinguistics."*
(Mc Kay, 1996)

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

3. *"For some scholars, adult knowledge of language is presumed to be the product of general learning capacities ... But one prominent alternative is that the human capacity for language is the product of a mental organ or faculty"*
(Paul Bloom, 1994).

Discuss this statement with reference to what you know about language acquisition theories and the arguments for/against innateness.

4. Compare and contrast the models of speech perception/spoken word recognition that you have learnt. Include in your answer a discussion on what these theories say about the role of 'higher-level knowledge' in speech perception/spoken word recognition.