

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama
Sidang Akademik 2001/2002

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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. Do you agree that terms like "Variety", "Dialect" and "Language" are difficult to define? Discuss with examples.
2. "English is a better language than French. Italian is a more musical language than German. There is no way you could ever hope to discuss nuclear physics in Malay."

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

Do you agree or disagree? What are your reasons?

3. Discuss the concept of elaborated and restricted codes and the criticisms which have been levelled against it.

4. **EITHER**

- [a] "In a vibrant multicultural society like Malaysia, it is inevitable that the vernacular languages find their way into the English language and influence the way English is spoken by Malaysians."

(Sue Kim, 1998)

Assess this observation in relation to the variety/varieties of English in Malaysia.

OR

- [b] In Malaysia, "it may be true to say that the status of English as the "second most important language" appears to depend crucially on the dynamics of the interplay of government policies and directives and the effects of all these on the linguistic market place where they are inevitably pitched against the normal sociolinguistic forces of language choice and use, change and variation."

(Venugopal, 2000)

To what extent is Venugopal right? Give your reasons.

5. McKay (1996) claims that literacy is an essential component of the study of Sociolinguistics. What kind of evidence would you consider to be relevant to confirming (or disconfirming) such a claim?