

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama
Sidang Akademik 2001/2002

September 2001

HXE 306 – Sociology and Psychology of Language

Masa : 3 jam

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS SIX [6] QUESTIONS IN TWO [2] PAGES.

Answer any **TWO [2]** questions from **Section A** and any **TWO [2]** questions from **Section B**.

SECTION A

1. [a] Discuss four types of code-switching with appropriate examples.
[b] Describe different patterns of attitudes towards code-switching in a society that you are familiar with.
[25 marks]

2. The term 'language spread' is sometimes used to describe the process whereby 'the uses or the users of a language increase' (Cooper, 1982). Explain how English can be considered as a language that has 'spread' the most in the modern world.
[25 marks]

3. Holmes (1994) suggests that the differences in how female and male speakers interact with one another would be thought to disadvantage female speakers in mixed-sex interaction. Comment.
[25 marks]

SECTION B

This section contains **THREE [3]** questions. Answer any **TWO [2]** questions.

4. [a] You are at a cocktail party and trying to listen to your friend who is talking to you about her latest project. Because of the noise at the party, some of her words are blocked or partially blocked out. Despite this you are still able to process each of her sentences with ease. Why is this so, and what does it say about the role of top-down information in sentence processing?
- [b] In sentence processing, prior context automatically places restraints on the perception of lower-level information. Discuss the two types of techniques or studies that have been used to provide evidence for this.

[25 marks]

5. Using your knowledge of the various types of language disorders or aphasias, discuss which areas in the brain have been found to be relevant to language functioning.

[25 marks]

6. Review the evidence for and against the innateness of first language acquisition in children. In your discussion, also take into account what the other theories of child language acquisition say on this matter.

[25 marks]