

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Kedua
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HET 521 – Psychology and Sociology of Language

Masa : 3 jam

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS FIVE [5] QUESTIONS IN THREE [3] PAGES.

Answer **ALL FIVE [5]** questions.

1. **EITHER**

How would you argue that no variety of a language is intrinsically better than another and that what happens is largely the result of the chance interplay of external forces? Discuss with examples.

OR

Standard languages are usually based on an existing dialect of the language. For example, the British variety of English is based, historically at least, on the dialect of the area of surrounding London and Continental French on the dialect of Paris.

How relevant is this statement to the situation in your country? Discuss in the context of English language.

[25 marks]

2. **EITHER**

Is social structure continuously created and re-created out of the behaviour of individuals, or is the individual behaviour fashioned to meet the requirements of an ongoing social structure?

Would sociolinguists be able to participate in a discussion of questions of this kind? Or is this a riddle best left to philosophers? Discuss with examples.

OR

Ferdinand de Saussure claimed that speech was totally individual, in that it depended only on the will of the speaker and conversely that language was entirely social, being identical from one member of a speech community to another.

To what extent was de Saussure right? Discuss with examples.

[25 marks]

3. Briefly explain **TWO** of the following:

- [a] lateralization of function
- [b] innatist
- [c] garden path sentences
- [d] identity hypothesis

[10 marks]

4. Answer **ONE** of the following.

- [a] Describe the two models of sentence parsing and demonstrate how theorists have used sentences with multiple senses to understand syntactic parsing.
- [b] *Broca's aphasia, Wernicke's aphasia* and *Acquired dyslexia* are forms of language disorders. For each one, describe (with examples where possible) the disorder and explain the cognitive processes researchers think could be 'going wrong'.

[15 marks]

5. Discuss the views that have been put forward by linguists regarding SLA in relation to FLA. What connections have linguists made between the acquisition of second language and first language. Include also in your discussion the similarities and differences that linguists have drawn to show the link and divide between the two kinds of acquisition. What are your own opinions on some of the more debatable issues concerning the two modes of acquisition.

[25 marks]