

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH

- LEVEL 4

FINAL EXAMINATION

- November 2015

THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- LSD2201

DURATION

- THREE HOURS (03 hours)



DATE: 14. 11. 2015

TIME: 9.30 pm.

- 12.30pm.

ANSWER ANY 04 QUESTIONS, SELECTING TWO FROM PART (A) AND TWO FROM PART (B).

PART A

1. Give an account of the contribution made by the Vikings (Scandinavians) to the growth of the English Language.
2. Explain how the Great Vowel Shift, effected the long Vowels in English. Support your answers with examples/diagrams.
3. Why is the Norman Conquest considered as the event that had a greater effect on the English Language than any other? Discuss.
4. 'Some forms of nouns in English do not obey the same rules as the rest.' Give reasons for this with relevant examples.

(50 marks)

PART B

5. The spread of English has resulted in reshaping, acculturating and redesigning the English language. This has resulted in a liberated English which contains vitality, innovation, linguistic mix, and cultural identity.
Discuss this statement in relation to the spread of English in the 19th and 20th centuries.

6. "... *standard languages are the result of a direct and deliberate intervention by society*" (Hudson 1996: 32).

Discuss this statement with close reference to the process of intervention which contributed to the evolving of Standard British English.

7. "*English belongs to the world and every nation which uses it does so with different tone, colour, and quality. ... [English] is yours (no matter who you are) as much as it is mine (no matter who I am). We may use it for different purposes and for different lengths of time on different occasions, but nonetheless it belongs to all of us*" (Larry Smith, 1976).

Comment on this statement in relation to the teaching and learning of English in the Sri Lankan classroom.

8. Critically discuss how the English Language in North America developed into a distinct variety, American English.

(50 marks)