



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

B.A IN ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING - LEVEL 6

FINAL EXAMINATION - July 2007

PSYCHOLINGUISTICS & SOCIOLINGUISTICS - LSU 4301

DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 12. 07. 2007

TIME: 9.30 am. - 12.30pm.

ANSWER 4 QUESTIONS CHOOSING 2 EACH FROM PARTS (A) and (B).

PART - A

1. Discuss Fishman's (1965) statement that "Habitual choice in multilingual societies is far from being a random matter."  
Your answer should outline and discuss the social factors that affect choice of language or a variety.
2. "Social relationships can be extended, defined and manipulated through the use of speech."  
Examine the use of *either* kinship terms *or* personal pronouns in the light of this statement."
3. "The role of a national government does not stop at selecting a national language" (Trudgill 1987)  
Comment on the role of government (or state) in selecting a language as a national / official language. Illustrate your answer with reference to at least 3 modern nations, including Sri Lanka.
4. *According to sociologists, human communication is not neutral but affected by consideration of gender.*  
Discuss this point of view, and compare and contrast the use of language by men and women in different social contexts.
5. "Neither of the terms 'dialect' or 'language' represent a clear-cut or water-tight concept."  
Using this as the starting point of your answer, comment on the distinction between 'dialect' and 'language'.

## Part – B

6. *“It seems to be virtually impossible to speed up the language learning process”*. Discuss, the stages of Child Language Acquisition giving appropriate examples.
7. Children proceed through certain phases in reading, from being unable to read to possessing a normal adult level of reading. Support this view with adequate examples.
8. Discuss how you, as a teacher in ELT, would identify children with language disabilities. You MUST refer to at least FIVE different types of language disorders.
9. *“Children often take one feature of an object, and then, wherever that feature occurs, they use the word they know that has that feature”*. In the light of the above comment, discuss the systematic nature of the Mental Lexicon in children.
10. Write short notes on TWO of the following..
  - Syntactic Model
  - Semantic Model
  - Procedural Grammar Model