



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

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

FINAL EXAMINATION - June 2010

PSYCHOLINGUISTICS & SOCIOLINGUISTICS - LSU 4301

DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 30. 06. 2010

TIME: 9.30 am. - 12.30pm.

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

**PART – A**

- 1) The term “Speech Community” according to Montgomery is a misnomer. Do you agree with this view point? Use any ONE definition of a Speech Community you have studied and discuss the above statement.
- 2) Explain what a “Standard Language” is. List and explain the phases a language goes through to become a Standard Language.
- 3) According to Holmes, a language is more prestigious than a dialect. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer . Illustrate your answer with reference to English and any other Sri Lankan language.
- 4) According to Holmes, in the struggle to establish a distinct national identity, and to secure independence from colonial rule, the development of a National language has often played an important part. Discuss this statement with reference to language policy in Sri Lanka. Your answer should define the term “National language” and discuss the role of a National language in nation building.

- 5) Contemporary sociolinguists include analysis of the written language as relevant to the field of Sociolinguistics. Montgomery, for instance, has commented on the language of war reporting stating that "euphemistic terms which represent tactics and weapons used in modern warfare have a tendency to anesthetize the reality of the full horror caused by them."
- Using this statement as the starting point of your answer, comment on the language of war in English newspapers and journals.

**Part – B**

- 6) Child language acquisition has been explained from different theoretical perspectives. Compare and contrast the views of at least three theorists.
- 7) "Mental lexicon plays a central role in the processes of language comprehension and production." Describe how the mental lexicon is organized and how it functions in word retrieval giving appropriate examples.
- 8) "Wash foots no." Explain this utterance using your knowledge of the development of speech production in children.
- 9) "Reading is a skill that develops through a number of stages." Do you agree with the above statement? Support your answer with examples.
- 10) What do you understand by the following? Explain using appropriate examples.
- a) lateralization of the brain
  - b) child directed speech
  - c) acquired language disorders
  - d) telegraphic speech