

THE OPENUNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH

- LEVEL 4

FINAL EXAMINATION

- November 2014

THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- LSD2201

DURATION

- THREE HOURS (03 hours)



DATE: 15. 11. 2014

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 how the influence of Norman French loan words transformed the character of English.
2. The phenomenon referred to as the Great Vowel Shift affected the quality of the long vowels in English. Explain this statement.
3. The development of the English Language was influenced by the classical languages that contributed to the complexity of English spelling - discuss.
4. It is stated that the core of the English language consists of around 5% of Anglo-Saxon words which are very important to the language. Do you agree? Explain with examples.

(50 marks)

PART B

5. *“World-wide there are over 1,400 million people living in countries where English has official status. One out of five of the world’s population speaks English to some level of competence. Demand from the other four fifths is increasing.... with the year 2000 it is estimated that over one billion people will be learning English. English is*

the main language of books, newspapers, airports, and air-traffic control, international business and academic conferences, science technology, diplomacy, sport, international competitions, pop music and advertising.” (quoted in Holborrow 1999 p.55).

The comment above suggests that English is indispensable to life in the modern world and presents English as an apolitical language choice driven by its utility value.

Critically evaluate this view of English and the ideology that it encodes

6. Critically discuss the conceptual innovation of Kachru’s model of concentric circles and its limitations. Specifically, consider how it is both similar and dissimilar to the earlier ENL, ESL, EFL classification.
7. Critically comment on the distinctive features of American English and the socio-linguistic factors that contributed to its differentiation from British English.
8. Critically evaluate two models of World English (for instance Kachru’s Concentric Circles, Modiano’s model or Schneider’s developmental model) and discuss their strengths and weaknesses.

(50 marks)