



POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF ENGLISH
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

PSYCHO-SOCIAL ASPECTS OF TEACHING ENGLISH IN SRI LANKA - LSP 2301

FINAL EXAMINATION - September 2006

DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 02. 09. 2006

TIME: 1.30 pm. - 4.30pm.

Answer Question 1 (Part A) and 2 other questions, selecting ONE from Part B and ONE from Part C.

PART A (40 marks)

This question must be answered.

1. Describe and comment on each of the following:
 - a) Declarative and procedural knowledge in language learning
 - b) The 'good language learner'
 - c) Codeswitching
 - d) Speech community

PART B - **PSYCHOLINGUISTICS** (30 marks)

2. Most contemporary psycholinguists believe that language acquisition is enhanced by interaction – interaction between the child's innate abilities and caretaker speech (motherese) in the case of L1 acquisition, and interaction between the language learner and proficient speakers of the TL in second language learning. Discuss.

3. "The more a language teacher knows about her students' learning strategy preferences, the more effectively she can tailor her instructions to the needs of her students." Comment on the importance of learning strategies in language instruction in the light of this statement.
4.
 - a) In language acquisition what is a 'trigger'?
 - b) 'Does the adult have available the same triggering mechanism the child does, which allows her/him to make progressive changes in the developing grammar'? Discuss this question in relation to Second Language Acquisition.

PART C – **SOCIOLINGUISTICS** (30 marks)

5. "The taxonomy of linguistic description, i.e., the identification and enumeration of languages is greatly hampered by the ambiguities and obscurities attached to the terms 'language' and 'dialect'." – Einar Haugen.
Using this as the starting point of your answer, explore the differences between the terms 'language', 'dialect' and 'variety' with reference to English.
6. Ferguson (1959) has defined diglossia as a system that reflects a marked difference between informal and formal styles in a language. Would you agree that this is an adequate description of 'diglossia'? Give reasons for your answer.
7. "There are many features of interaction which differentiate the talk of women and men."
Discuss.
8. The domination of English as a global language has come to be described as 'linguistic imperialism', yet many Asian nations are actively encouraging the use of English. Explain this phenomenon in terms of the sociolinguistic realities that exist in 3 Asian countries, other than Sri Lanka.