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THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

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

FINAL EXAMINATION - July 2011

PSYCHOLINGUISTICS & SOCIOLINGUISTICS - LSU 4301

DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 02. 07. 2011 TIME: 9.30 am. - 12.30 pm.

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

PART – A

1. Define the concept of Code Switching and explain the conditions under which this sociolinguistic phenomenon takes place

2. Language is never neutral, it is always 'interested' and discursive. Discuss this statement in relation to the issue of Language and Representation.

3. What is Diglossia? Explain with extensive examples.

4. The English language is no longer racist, but is still sexist. Do you agree? Discuss the issues related to gender, race and euphemisms.

5. Write short notes on each of the following terms, comparing and contrasting where relevant.
   a. Standard Language and Vernaculars
   b. Dialects and Accents
   c. National languages and official languages
   d. Lingua Franca and Pidgin

PART – B

6. 'While animal communication does not seem to resemble human language, the question remains of whether animals are cognitively capable of acquiring language if they have human models.'

   a) What are the design features of language?

   b) Discuss the attempts made by researchers to see whether animals are cognitively capable of acquiring language. Give examples.

7. What is 'Mental Lexicon'? How is it organized? Discuss how the organization of the lexicon facilitates word retrieval giving examples.

8. 'Language is localized in the brain.' Do you agree with the above statement? Support your answer using evidence of patients suffering from acquired language disorders.

9. Over-extensions, under-extensions and telegraphic speech are characteristics of child speech development. Explain what is meant by these terms giving examples.

10. What are developmental disorders? How would knowledge of developmental disorders help a language teacher in the primary classroom?