THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

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

FINAL EXAMINATION - December 2012

PSYCHOLINGUISTICS & SOCIOLINGUISTICS - LSU 4301

DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 12. 12. 2012 TIME: 9.30 am. - 12.30pm.

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

PART – A

1. "Historically, a successful national language has needed to serve a variety of functions". Explain this statement, the process of deciding on a national language and some key issues concerned with such a decision, using examples from any countries, including Sri Lanka's choice in 1956.

2. Write short notes on each of the following pairs of terms, comparing and contrasing where relevant
   a. Natural Language and Artificial Language
   b. Regional dialects and social dialects
   c. Social variable and linguistic variable in Sociolinguistics
   d. Pidgins and Creoles

3. a. Explain the term genderlect and discuss Robin Lakoff's Deficiency Model of language and gender.
   b. Do you agree / disagree that Lakoff's model accents for the difference in language use by males and females. (Give reasons for your point of view).
   c. Explain at least one alternative model that can explain the deferential use of language.

4. Diglossia is a characteristic of speech communities rather than individuals. Discuss this statement in – depth, providing examples from the Sri Lankan multilingual context.

PART – B

5. "Humans posses a mental dictionary which helps them in word storage and retrieval". Do you agree with the above statement? Support your answer with examples.

6. What do you understand by the term Child Directed Speech (CDS)? Describe the features of CDS giving appropriate examples. (Give some examples from the Sri Lankan context as well).

7. "Development of speech in children is highly dependent on their exposure to language at early stages." Discuss the above statement in the context of language deprived children.

8. What do you understand by the terms lateralization and localization in the brain? What evidence can you find to support these phenomena?