THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
B.A IN ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING - LEVEL 6
FINAL EXAMINATION - October 2013
PSYCHOLINGUISTICS & SOCIOLINGUISTICS - LSU 4301
DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 25. 10. 2013 TIME: 9.30 am. - 12.30pm.

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

PART – A

1. Write short notes on each of the following pairs of terms, comparing and contrasting them where relevant

   a. Shibboleth and Linguistic variable
   b. Accent and Dialect
   c. Language and Code
   d. Sex and Gender

2. A: A Thai researcher, working with students living in the United States, found that code-switching from English into Thai happened most often when the students were speaking about the supernatural and switching from Thai to English happened when they were talking about travel and what they wanted to do after university. Give possible reasons for this scenario referring to what you have learned about Code Switching

   B: Guy is a lawyer in Honolulu, Hawaii. In court, and when meeting with clients, he wears a suit and tie, and he speaks the supra-local variety of American English he acquired growing up in a family that moved often. Outside work hours he wears T-shirts and jeans, and when he stops an employee at the drugstore to ask for help, he switches into Pidgin, 'Cuz, get dakine pukka beads here?' (Hey, mate, do you have any of those like, surfer beads here?). Why do you think Guy uses Pidgin instead of American English in the local store? List some situations where he might want to use Pidgin in his legal work

3. Would you characterize Sri Lankan English as a Standard, Dialect, a Variety or a Vernacular? Discuss the issue of Sri Lankan English in relation to Standards and Dialects and Diglossia

4. How likely is it that certain child-rearing practices encourage different kinds of linguistic behaviour in young boys and girls? Discuss with examples.

PART – B

5. The development of speech production in children occurs in a number of clearly observable stages and their utterances show special characteristics. Describe the stages of language development and the characteristics of child speech providing examples (include examples from Sri Lankan context where possible).

6. What is 'mental lexicon' and how is it organized? How do psycholinguists study the lexical representation and what views do they have on monolingual and bilingual lexical representation? Incorporate the findings of at least two studies in your answer.

7. A successful writer goes through several stages of writing in order to achieve a polished end product. Explain briefly what happens at each stage in the writing process and discuss the levels of monitoring in detail.

8. What do you understand by the following terms? Elaborate your answer with examples.
    a) Child Directed Speech
    b) Lateralisation in the brain and hemisphere dominance
    c) Acquired disorders of language (Give 2 examples)