



ශ්‍රේණුවේදී උපධි (බහිර - නව නිර්දේශය-පරීක්ෂණය 300 මට්ටම - ජනවාරි 2025)
கலைத்தேர்வுப் பரீட்சை (வெளிவாரி-புதிய பாடத்திட்டம்) 300 வது தேர்ச்சி மட்டம் - ஜனவரி 2025
Bachelor of Arts (External - New Syllabus) Examination 300 Level – January - 2025

(ENGE 302: Topics in the Study of the English Language)

කාලය පැය (03) තුනයි
 மூன்று (03) மணித்தியாலங்கள்
 Time three (03) Hours.

ප්‍රශ්න 4 පිළිතුරු සපයන්න
 4 வினாக்களுக்கு மட்டும் விடையளிக்க.
 Answer all 4 questions.

නොපැහැදිලි අත් අකුරුවලට ලකුණු කපනු ලැබේ
 எழுத்து தெளிவில்லாதவிடத்து புள்ளிகள் குறைக்கப்படும்.
 Marks will be deducted for illegible handwriting.

මෙම ප්‍රශ්න පත්‍රයේ අඩංගු ප්‍රශ්න සංඛ්‍යාව 4 කි
 இந்த வினாப்பத்திரத்தில் 4 வினாக்கள் உள்ளன.
 There are 4 questions in the question paper.

1. Analyse the following passages, paying special attention to the ways in which they engage with the topic of language change. Use between 400-450 words for the response. (30 marks)

a. "It isn't that language changes only because new things need names or because new developments bring people into new contacts. Language changes because its very structure makes transformation inevitable. [...] [E]ven if a language were spoken by a community mysteriously condemned to live for millennia in a cave, under staunchly unchanging conditions, after three thousand years the language of that community would be vastly different from the one spoken when they were first herded into the cave, and outsiders would most likely hear it as a different language entirely. In Old English, for example, the word pronounced GAHST-litch meant 'spiritual,' but as sounds shuffled around or wore away and its very meaning drifted along, it became our modern English word ghostly— imagine that kind of thing happening to thousands of words bit by bit. Yet, obviously, little of what we could call 'dynamic' would have happened in the cave. The change would happen simply because mutability is as inherent to the very nature of language as it is for clouds to be ever in transformation."

b. "As Meredith argued, 'language change is not a superficial decision or event,' but rather [...] a way to survive in the changing world, and it is often [...] 'the direct results of political, economic and cultural imperialism.'" This can be seen from how English develops from its native country England and spreads to the whole world. First, it was because of colonialism, but then the people in the world just voluntarily adapt the language. In a similar manner, Mahoney has agreed that language changes as a result of social, economic, and political pressure. She added that the unique way that individuals speak may also cause the language to change. Her argument is based on the fact that no two individuals use a language in exactly the same way. The vocabulary and expressions people use depend on their age, education level, place to live, social status and other factors. Through social interaction, new words and sayings are picked up and integrated into everyday speech."

2. Write short notes on 4 of the following (40-50 words for each short note, 4 × 5=20 marks)

- Saussure's Theory of Language as a System of Signs
- English as a Second Language
- Language as Nomenclature
- Morphology
- Phonology
- Speech Community
- Bilingualism
- Extra-linguistic Factors and Language Use

3.

EITHER

- a. According to M. C. N. Perera, “In Sri Lanka, English has long been a language of authority granting access to the higher classes of society. Hence it is referred to by the colloquial appellation kaduwa, meaning ‘the sword’. However, the English that is spoken in Sri Lanka today is not the same as the English that was introduced by the British colonizers since the year 1796. At present, there is an observable tendency to deviate from the ‘British’ standards of speaking English and to use a variety of English which is identified as ‘Sri Lankan English’”. Critically analyse this statement with reference to the notions of Standard Englishes and Sri Lankan English. (400-450 words, 25 marks)

OR

- b. How does contemporary English language education in Sri Lanka either empower or disempower different learners of the English language in Sri Lanka? (400-450 words, 25 marks)

4.

EITHER

- a. Comment on the importance of learning about the history of the English language for someone who intends to continue with English studies. (400-450 words, 25 marks)

OR

- b. Discuss AT LEAST TWO dominant theories of language acquisition and learning. (400-450 words, 25 marks)
