

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 2, Semester 2, 2018

ENG 2232 – English Across the World

Two Hours

Answer THREE (03) questions, selecting ONE (01) question from PART A and TWO (02) from PART B.

PART A

EITHER

1. According to Davies (1991/2003), "[t]he native speaker has a unique capacity to write creatively (and this includes, of course, literature at all levels from jokes to epics, metaphor to novels)." Evaluate this statement with reference to bilingual's creativity.

OR

2. "The concept of World Englishes challenges the claim that the global spread of English would homogenize language use or users". Evaluate this statement with reference to **either** Kachru's Model of World Englishes **or** Schneider's Development Cycles.

PART B

EITHER

3. It is noted that at one point in Sri Lanka's postcolonial history "Sri Lankan English (SLE) usage was [...] only cause for comic relief, not pride, in literature." Does this statement apply to Muller's employment of SLE in *The Jam Fruit Tree*? Justify your point of view with close reference to the text.

OR

4. In relation to what is termed "periphery countries", Phillipson supports Kachru's observation that "those in possession of English benefit from an alchemy which transmutes [language] into material and social [...] advantage." Could this statement be made of language dynamics in *The Jam Fruit Tree*? Discuss, drawing detailed references from the text.

AND

EITHER

5. "Lakdasa Wikkramasinha's poetry shows a keen awareness of issues concerning postcolonial Sri Lankan society, making the postcolonial subject's experiences the focus of reference." Do you agree? Discuss, referring to any THREE of Wikkramasinha's poems.

OR

6. Bapsi Sidhwa makes the following statement regarding the English language: "[T]his useful language [...] is no longer the monopoly of the British. We the excolonized have subjugated the language, beaten it on its head and made it ours!" To what extent would you agree that Lakdasa Wikkramasinha engages in this task of linguistic subjugation and appropriation? Discuss, referring to any THREE of Wikkramasinha's poems.
