

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 3, Semester 2, 2018

ENG 3259 – Modern Drama Studies I

Two Hours

Answer **TWO (02)** questions, choosing **ONE** from each Part.

Part A

Either

1. Critically explore the dynamics of powerlessness and resistance as presented/represented in Brecht's *Mother Courage*.

Or

2. "Brecht's theatre aims to prevent what he calls 'empathy' or 'feeling with' a character, as well as the response of 'feeling for' a character (what could be called 'sympathy')." Discuss with detailed reference to Brecht's *Mother Courage*, your critical response to this intention 'to alienate' vis-à-vis your experience of reading the play.

Part B

Either

3. "The central tension of the play concerns Mouth's refusal or inability to achieve any kind of integrated subjectivity: to say 'I.'" Discuss this statement with reference to *Not I* by Samuel Beckett

Or

4. Lisa Dawn, who performed Mouth in *Not I* in 2005 notes: "in between the sheer poetry and the fractured narrative, I saw a transcript of how the mind works – not a linear stream of thought, but layers of interjections, interruptions, insurrections." In what ways does this create a critical framework for approaching the performance, as well as the aesthetics of the Absurd? Discuss with detailed reference to the text.

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