

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 3, Semester I, 2017/2018

ENG 3158 – Sri Lankan English Studies

Two Hours

Answer TWO questions, choosing ONE FROM EACH PART

PART A

EITHER

1. Do you agree that Richard de Zoysa and Asgar Hussein are among the Sri Lankan poets writing in English, who have boldly confronted a range of social and political experiences of our contemporary milieu? In your response, refer to at least **two (02)** poems by each poet.

OR

2. “Sri Lankan writing in English has evolved from a ‘sterile’ oeuvre, which was largely confined to irrelevant themes, to a vibrant body of writing that challenges the present status quo”. Critically analyse this statement in relation to the fiction in Sri Lankan English that you have studied.

PART B

EITHER

1. “After some time, English, as it had been transplanted in Sri Lanka, developed into the distinct, rule-governed variety of Sri Lankan English (SLE)” (Fernando, 2006). Do you agree? Support your stance with reference to at least **two (02)** of the following: lexicon, phonology, morphology and/or syntax.

OR

2. Critically analyse **both** the following comment and data on Sri Lankan English:
 - a. “I think language is an expression of the people who speak it. Language expresses the way of thought, character and nuances of the people. Sri Lankans are slightly different. So I think we should have our own brand of English though the grammar should be the Standard English Grammar. For without that it cannot be English.”
 - b. About 60% of respondents are aware of the existence of Sri Lankan English and claim it is the variety which is spoken in Sri Lanka. Around 40% admit that they accept it as their target norm.

(Kunstler et al, 2009)

Support your analysis by referring to at least **two (02)** studies on attitudes to Sri Lankan English.
