

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 3, Semester 1, 2017/2018

ENG 3163 – Studies in Sociolinguistics

Two hours

Answer any THREE questions

1. Illustrate why the concept of mutual intelligibility cannot be used as the sole means of distinguishing between a dialect and a language.
2. Discuss the problems inherent in using the concept of a speech community to undertake sociolinguistic research and understand patterns of language use.
3. Explain how Goffman's concept of 'face' underlies the interactions we identify as polite behavior. In your response, refer to any language you are familiar with.
4. Using examples from either Tamil or Sinhala, explain what Ferguson means by "the specialization of function for H and L" in a diglossic language.
5. Describe at least three major differences between a pidgin and a creole language.
6. Write short notes on any two of the following:
  - a. Style and register
  - b. Communities of practice
  - c. Isogloss
  - d. Performative speech acts
  - e. Grice's Cooperative Principle
  - f. Ethnography of communication

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