

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Third Year Examination in Arts (Study Stream) Semester 1, 2017/2018

English Studies: Theory and Practice

ENG 3144 – Studies in Sociolinguistics

Two hours

Answer any THREE questions

1. Discuss the problems inherent in using the concept of a speech community to undertake sociolinguistic research and understand patterns of language use.
2. Milroy's research into social networks in Belfast revealed that the network of social relationships an individual belonged to exerts a powerful influence on that individual's language. Discuss. You may refer to any social networks you are a member of, in your response.
3. Wardhaugh and Fuller state that when using names and address terms, "the linguistic choices a speaker makes indicate the social relationship that the speaker perceives to exist between him or her and the listener or listeners" (2015:263). Do you agree? Discuss in relation to the use of either names or address terms.
4. Explain the concepts of positive and negative politeness, giving at least two examples of each to illustrate.
5. Using examples from either Tamil or Sinhala, explain what Charles Ferguson means by "the specialization of function for H and L" in a diglossic language.
6. What are the typical origins of a pidgin language? Use examples to support your answer.
