

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 3, Semester 1, 2018/19

ENG 3158 – Sri Lankan English Studies

Two Hours

Answer TWO questions, selecting ONE from each part.

Part A

EITHER

1. "Though early work on Sri Lankan English (SLE) is at times criticised for its subtle espousal of an 'international standard' of English, the more recent work on SLE has not changed the situation in any significant manner either." Do you agree? Critically analyse this statement, referring to at least **three (03)** works discussed during the course.

OR

2. Fernando and Sivaji (2012) observe that most existing studies on SLE document the influence of Sinhala, the dominant language of the country and the first language of the majority of SLE speakers, but not Tamil, a minority language. How does one reconcile this "majority bias" (Gunasekera, 2006, p. 41) with the pluralistic approach towards language varieties that SLE supposedly upholds? Justify your stance, drawing on at least **three (03)** works discussed during the course.

OR

3. Kandiah (1979) notes that according to the "liberal approach" to World Englishes, some varieties of South Asian English "demand recognition as independent, distinctive, fully formed, sufficient and viable linguistic organisms" (p.77). What could be some practical means of bestowing such recognition on SLE? Discuss, making reference to at least **three (03)** works discussed during the course.

Part B

EITHER

4. "In Nihal de Silva's *Ginirella Conspiracy*, the use of Sri Lankan English is contrived." Using examples from the text, explore this statement by drawing on the research on SLE that you are familiar with.

OR

5. How do the short stories you have studied in class reflect perceptions of the use of Sri Lankan English in creative writing? Refer to at least **three (03) stories** in your answer.

OR

6. "The delicacy of the imagery and language in the work captures a particular Sri Lankan sensibility." Discuss this statement in relation to Ramya Jirasinghe's poetry.
