

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 3, Semester 1, 2018/2019

ENG 3163 – Studies in Sociolinguistics

Two Hours

Answer **THREE (03)** questions.

1. “The taxonomy of linguistic description... is greatly hampered by the ambiguities and obscurities attaching to the terms “language” and “dialect [or variety]” (Haugen, 1966). Explain this statement using any one type of variation.
2. Clarify the concepts ‘standard’ and ‘variety’ in relation to a language you speak.
3. Why does Canagarajah opt to use the term ‘translanguaging’ instead of ‘codeswitching’ or ‘codemixing’? Provide a detailed analysis of the debates on this topic in your answer.
4. Define pidgins and creoles and explain their role in the social and educational contexts in which they are used.
5. McEnery and Xiao (2004) state that “Swearing is a part of everyday life.” Yet, it is considered a social taboo. Explain this apparent contradiction.
6. Argue for or against Brown and Gilman’s (1960) statement that “the non-reciprocal power semantic is associated with a relatively static society”.