

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Second Year Examination in Arts (Study Stream)

English Studies: Theory and Practice, Semester 1, 2016/2017

ENG 2137 – Structural and Functional Approaches to the English Language

TWO HOURS

Answer ANY THREE (03) questions.

1. “Human language has properties that makes it so unique that it is quite unlike any other communication system, hence not learnable by any other creature.”
Discuss with reference to properties of human language and attempts made to teach human language to apes.
2. In her work on the vocabulary of Sri Lankan English (SLE), Siromi Fernando argues that “SLE vocabulary has at present dynamically extended its numbers as well as the strategies of generating new vocabulary in a new variety.” Assess this statement in relation to the morphology of SLE.
3. List and describe the stages of first language acquisition. Provide examples to support your answer.
4. Explain what is meant by “code switching”. Comment on how and why a bilingual speaker of Sri Lankan English switches codes.
5. Write short notes on **any two (02)** the following:
 - (i) Origin of language
 - (ii) Inflectional and derivational morphemes
 - (iii) Structural ambiguity of the English language
 - (iv) Caregiver speech
