

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 3, Semester 1, 2016/2017

ENG 3163 – Studies in Sociolinguistics

Two hours

Answer any THREE questions

1. The ethnography of speaking is “radically at odds with the traditional, idealized conception of a speech community as homogeneous and unitary.” Discuss.
2. In your opinion, is Milroy’s concept of a Social Network or the concept of a Discourse Community more appropriate to describe the linguistic communities of which you are a member?
3. What challenges to the stability of diglossia do you see in the contemporary use of Tamil **OR** Sinhala, especially in the media? You may use examples to support your answer.
4. Discuss **four to five** languages in contact situations that can result in the emergence of pidgin and/or creole languages.
5. According to Ben Rampton, “an intricate dialectic between language, peer group belonging and ethnic otherness lies at the heart of language crossing.” Discuss.
6. Write short notes on **any two** of the following:
 - a. Direct and indirect speech acts
 - b. Social and regional dialects
 - c. Positive and negative politeness
 - d. Language standardization
 - e. Code-switching /mixing
 - f. Dynamic and Recursive bilingualism
