

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF ARTS

THIRD YEAR EXAMINATION IN ARTS, HONOURS DEGREE, SEMESTER 1 –
2021/2022

ENG 3163 – STUDIES IN SOCIOLINGUISTICS

TWO HOURS

Answer ANY THREE questions. All questions carry equal marks (20)

1. According to Wardhaugh and Fuller, the linguistic variable is "... the basic conceptual tool" of sociolinguists. Would you agree? Discuss, referring to at least three types of variation in your response.
2. Explain how social networks can function as norm-enforcing mechanisms, referring to the specific features necessary for such processes to take place.
3. Explain why mutual intelligibility is not an appropriate criterion to determine if two varieties are dialects of the same language. Give at least three reasons to support your answer.
4. Discuss how user attitudes can maintain or weaken the linguistic phenomenon known as diglossia. Refer to any language you know/use to support your response.
5. Describe at least three features that linguists use to differentiate a pidgin from a creole.
6. "By demonstrating how individuals can adopt someone else's ethnicity in a performative sense, Ben Rampton's research into language crossing highlights a weakness of early theories of the ethnography of communication, which were applied to a single community of speakers." Discuss.
