

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF ARTS

FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION IN ARTS

SECOND SEMESTER END EXAMINATION – 2023/2024

SESL 1202: INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Time: Two (02) Hours

The paper consists of 3 parts with a total of 6 questions.

Select **at least one (01)** question from each part and answer **four (04)** questions in total.

All questions carry 15 marks each.

This paper constitutes 60% of the final grade.

PART A

1. According to Diane Larsen – Freeman (2011), "*Language learning is not simply a process of accumulating linguistic knowledge but a complex, dynamic system influenced by social, cognitive, and environmental factors.*"
 - a. Define language learning and language acquisition and explain how they differ in terms of the outcomes. (4 marks)
 - b. Discuss how Chomsky's Universal Grammar attempts to address the drawbacks of Skinner's behaviorist interpretation of language acquisition. (5 marks)
 - c. Elaborate on three key differences between a first language (L1) and a second language (L2) with reference to their acquisition process, cognitive development, and social usage. (6 marks)
2. "*A fundamental property of language is that it is a biologically determined capacity of the human brain, unique to our species and largely independent of general intelligence.*" (Noam Chomsky, 1965)
 - a. Briefly describe the role played by the following regions of the brain in language acquisition. (4 marks)
 - I. Broca's area
 - II. The angular gyrus

- b. Explain the process of speech production according to Willem Levelt's Speaking Model (1989, 1999), referring to its key sub-components. (5 marks)
- c. Levelt's model is developed to explain speech production in one's first language. Examine the applicability of this model to capture speech production in a second language. (6 marks)

PART B

3. *Language and society have an interesting relationship shaped by cultural aspects and power dynamics.*
 - a. Briefly define two (02) of these terms with suitable examples (4 marks)
 - i. Idiolect
 - ii. Sociolect
 - iii. Dialect
 - iv. Accent
 - b. Dialectal variation depends largely on the use of different lexical items that are different from region to region. Elaborate this statement with examples for lexical differences in the English language. (5 marks)
 - c. According to Llamas and Stockwell (2010), 'the influence of gender and unequal power dynamics have been a major aspect of sociolinguistic discussion in recent years.' Critically analyse this statement referring to the differences in 'genderlects' with at least 2 examples in your analysis. (6 marks)
4. *Characteristics of the language learner such as their learning styles and strategies significantly impact the L2 learning processes.*
 - a. Briefly differentiate between 'language learning strategies' and 'language use strategies' (4 marks)
 - b. According to Cohen (2010), "language aptitude does not determine whether or not someone can learn a language". Examine the validity of this statement with reference to the impact of language aptitude on learning an L2. (5 marks)
 - c. Examine the learning style differences among visual, auditory, and tactile/kinaesthetic language learners and evaluate how L2 teachers can practically use these differences to facilitate teaching and learning in classrooms. (6 marks)

PART C

5. *Speaking is a complex cognitive and social skill involving the ability to construct and convey meaning in real-time interaction using appropriate linguistic and pragmatic resources.* (Burns & Goh, 2012)

- a. Briefly explain the three types of speaking situations. (4 marks)
- b. According to Dell Hymes' model, speaking is a structured and context-dependent communication. Describe the eight key components of the model with a suitable example for each. (5 marks)
- c. Pragmatic competence in speaking is significant in understanding how speakers use language appropriately in different social and cultural settings and the effects their use of language has on other participants in the act of communication. Critically evaluate the validity of this statement with at least three examples. (6 marks)

6. *"Reading is not simply a receptive skill; it is an interactive, strategic, and purposeful process requiring active engagement."* (Grabe & Stoller, 2011)

- a. Select any two terms and define briefly. (4 marks)
 - i. Skimming
 - ii. Scanning
 - iii. Intensive reading
 - iv. Extensive reading
- b. Define the three levels of reading and discuss their key features and significance in comprehending a text. Support your answer with relevant examples for each level. (5 marks)
- c. Lack of motivation is a key factor affecting poor reading comprehension among ESL learners. With examples, discuss three strategies that can be used in a language classroom to enhance students' motivation for reading. (6 marks)

***** End of question paper*****