

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 4, Semester 2, 2016/2017

ENG 4282 - Language Policy and Planning

TWO HOURS

Answer any THREE (03) questions

1. Trace the history of language planning from the 1960s up to the present, showing how it has evolved into a significant academic discipline.
2. According to a UNESCO report, “A *national language* is the language of a political, social, and cultural entity, while an *official language* is a language used in the business of government – legislative, executive, and judicial” (1953). To what extent can these definitions be used to describe the use of Sinhala and Tamil in Sri Lanka?
3. Discuss the effectiveness of language policy as a mechanism for social cohesion and reconciliation in areas or nations which have experienced ethnic or racial conflict. Focus on at least two areas or nations in your response.
4. “A lack of foresight in language policy in education can lead to schisms resulting from an infringement of rights and the reinforcement or construction of linguistic hegemonies that should be avoided in multilingual communities.” Discuss in relation to recent language policies in education in Sri Lanka.
5. What is a lingua franca? Discuss how the acceptance and promotion of English as a lingua franca around the world undermine Phillipson’s arguments about linguistic imperialism.
6. Critically assess how language policy can be a site for debate, negotiation and contest of national identity.

\*\*\*\*\*