

EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF ARTS AND CULTURE

FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION IN ARTS AND CULTURE 2016/2017

Proper/Repeat (July/August 2019)

AEL 1212 GENERAL ENGLISH -II

Index No:

Time: 02Hours

Instructions to the candidates

1. Answer all the questions on this paper itself.
2. Marks will be deducted for spelling errors and grammatical mistakes.
3. This paper consists of **ELEVEN (11)** pages.

For Examiner's use only

Question Number	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
01	25	
02	10	
03	15	
04	15	
05	15	
06	20	
Total	100	

Section 1 Reading Skills

A. Reading Comprehension

Read the text given below and answer the questions that follow:

A global language, is a language spoken internationally which is learned by many people as a second language and the most popular one being English. A wide range of the lexical items in the English language were taken from German, Latin, French and other European countries. A large portion of the words borrowing uses as main source the French language justifying English language affinity for foreign words as well as mixed vocabulary. Crystal D. (2003: 7-10) argues that languages have a strong relation between dominance and cultural power. The main reason that the languages exist is a strong power-base, political and military or economic.

Linguists argue whether the simplicity of the English language is the main reason of it becoming a global language. Generally, nothing is considered to be easy. It generally depends on what the learner is. Ellis suggested that success depends on the learner and not on the language that one is learning. Some factors that have a significant role in making a person learn a foreign language are his motivation, age, aptitude, cognitive style and personality. While learning a foreign language one can observe that some languages appear to be more difficult than others. There are some languages that have almost the same patterns or similar soundings of the words which make them simpler to remember and learn.

English is a very effective language, that it is proved by the many native and non-native speakers all over the world. According to David Crystal (2003) "Statistics suggest that nearly a quarter of the world's population is already fluent or content in English". For example, Chinese has many native speakers, however it is a more complicated language in terms of grammar, verbs, meanings of the words, etc. However, some linguists have different points of view as to whether a language becoming global depends on the number of people speaking it. Crystal D. (2002: 7-10) argues that "Why a language becomes a global language has little to do with the number of people who speak it". Furthermore, English can help one to express various meanings. That is because English language not only has a lot of words with different meanings but also has various different types of syntax which help the speakers to be more accurate and to give emphasis to a particular point if it is needed. Another interesting point is that the English language is simple. There are even languages that have hundreds of letters in their alphabets that could have a different meaning when pronounced differently, like Chinese. The Roman alphabet is considered to be very easy to learn and surely much easier than the Chinese writing system which is very difficult for most people. Moreover, the Roman alphabet in English language is very phonetic, rather than character based, hence it can help to describe the sounds of words or phrases.

On the other hand, there are some poor features of English language. For example there are words written in one way and then read in another way and a lot of people may get confused especially if one's native language is not English. The difficulty in English is mostly noticed when we go in different areas in England; there are different ways of pronunciation, which is difficult for someone who speaks English as a second language to understand people from different areas such as Wales, Ireland, and Scotland. Also, non-native speakers like people from India and Pakistan have a different accent.

The meaning of the word superior is very strong and quite dominant. We can never assume that English is superior to other languages, it has become an easy way of communication but each nation will consider their own language as being important to them. A language has many components such as grammar, vocabulary and rules of usage. So it is not easy to say that English is superior to other languages. A linguistic myth analyses that fact. It explains that there facts that some languages are superior to others is not true and it has no basis in linguistic facts. Linguists explain that some languages are more useful than others, at a given period of history.

To sum up, English is being considered as an easier language to learn than some others, like for example Chinese - but the level of difficulty also depends on the individual learner. Moreover, English can indeed be regarded as a global language, but it cannot be considered as superior to other languages. In fact, every single language has its special characteristics and ways of expression. English has simply developed to be an easy way of communication between various nations.

(Adopted from: <https://www.ukessays.com/essays/english-language/a-global-language-english-language-essay.php>)

Question 1.1

Say whether the following statements are **True** or **False** by writing **T- for true** and **F-for false** given in the space.

1. English is an example for a global language
2. English consists of foreign and mixed words
3. According to Cristal, a language does not exist on its power base.
4. The global status of a language solely depends on a number of speakers of the language
5. English is far more superior than any other language in existence.

(05 x 01 = 05 Marks)

Question 1.2

Give short answers to the following

1. Give a suitable title to the above text:
.....(02 marks)
2. According to the text what does a "Global language" mean?
.....
.....

(02 marks)

3. What is the main reason for the existence of languages according to David Cristal?

.....
.....

(02 marks)

4. What does Ellis suggest, according to the passage, on language learning?

.....
.....

(02 marks)

5. Why do you think, according to the writings of David Cristal as mentioned in the passage, English has become the global language?

.....
.....

(03 marks)

6. What are some of the poor features we found in English as a language, according to the text?

.....
.....

(03 marks)

7. Do you think the writer wants to prove that English is a superior language to other languages according to the text? Give reason/s?

.....
.....
.....

(02 marks)

Question 1.3

Give similar words for the following

- 1. vocabulary
- 2. dominance
- 3. components
- 4. fluent
- 5. native
- 6. accent

(06 x 01 = 06 Marks)
(Total: 25 Marks)

B. Summary Writing Skills

Question 2.

Read the text given below and write the summary in about 50 words

“Reading makes a perfect man”. Every person must read. Reading plays an important role in a person’s life. By reading newspapers, we gain knowledge on current topics and come to know day to day events and activities occurring locally and globally.

There are many kinds of newspapers we could read every day. They contain different types of news and articles, providing variety of valuable information. Therefore it is very important for all of us to read newspapers.

By reading newspapers we can learn about the political situations, environmental issues, developments in the educational field and other areas, the condition of weather, economic status, social development and also sports news in the local and foreign arena. There are newspapers printed in different language by different organization in Sinhala, Tamil and English in Sri Lanka. Some are daily newspaper and others are weekend papers.

There are newspapers for children too. Some of the children’s newspapers are in three languages. The Sunday Observer, and the Sunday Times are two mainstream English newspapers, providing information to every section of the society including children. Especially, children improve their language ability through reading these newspapers.

Question 04

Change the sentences given below into passive voice.

1) The lecturer thanked the students for the support given to conduct the programme.

.....

2) The secretary proposed the vote of thanks in the forum as the last item on the agenda.

.....

3) The members discussed the details of the programme with the chairperson.

.....

4) The secretary prepared the agenda of the meeting in consultation with the advisor.

.....

5) The President invited the members for a discussion to finalise the project proposal.

.....

(Total: 05 x 03 = 15 Marks)

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