Examination paper for ENG1000: An Introduction to Sociolinguistics

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EN1000 Introduction to Sociolinguistics

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The exam consists of two sections. Answers must be provided to both Section A and Section B. Each section counts for 50%.

Section A: short answers

Answer three of the five questions below (expected answer length is approximately 1 side per question). Remember to provide examples in your answers.

(a) What is an isogloss?

(b) Distinguish between corpus planning and status planning.

(c) With respect to processes of language change, how does “change from above” differ from “change from below”?

(d) What is “hypercorrection” and how was it first introduced as a concept into sociolinguistics?

(e) Discuss this picture with reference to the concepts of iconization and erasure.
Section B: Essay

Write an essay based on **one** of the following titles (expected answer length is 3-4 pages).

1. How satisfactory is the concept of social class as an explanation for language variation and change?

2. “Style-shifting and code-switching deal with different sociolinguistic phenomena and should therefore be considered separate concepts”. Discuss.


4. “A pidgin is to a creole what a creole is to a standard language.” Discuss.

5. Discuss the relationship between ethnolinguistic vitality and the processes of language maintenance and shift.


7. “Forensic Linguistics lacks rigour because it relies too greatly on subjective, qualitative methodologies”. Discuss.

8. “The individual creates for himself the patterns of his linguistic behaviour so as to resemble those of the group or groups with whom from time to time he wishes to be identified, or so as to be unlike those from whom he wishes to be distinguished.” Discuss.

Good luck!