

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

M.A.

M.A. German Studies: Language, Power and Ideology Take-Home Paper

COURSE CODE : GERMPG36

COLLECT : 25-MAY-06, from 10am

RETURN : 30-MAY-06, by 5pm

GERMPG36
Language, Power and Ideology

Take-home paper

To be collected on 25 May from 12 noon onwards.
To be returned on 30 May between 2 and 5pm.

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS.

Essays should be approximately 1,000 words in length. Importance is attached to the clarity of your argument.

Do not use the same material as the basis for more than one answer.

Do not answer on substantially the same topic as that of your assessed essay for this course.

All questions carry equal marks.

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE: all quotations should be acknowledged and full references to source and page number given. A bibliography including all sources consulted should be listed at the end of each essay.

Please type if possible.

1. EITHER a) How far do you agree with the claim that 'because of the misuse of language in the Nazi regime, the German language has suffered a destruction so total that it cannot resume its previous function as the vessel of humane rationality and truth'?
- OR b) 'The purposeful German adaptation of language to create minimizing euphemisms for horrible violence was memorably nicknamed "Lingua Tertii Imperii" by linguist Victor Klemperer. The reason behind these types of language tricks is to undermine widely-held human standards.' Discuss, with examples.
2. EITHER a) 'The metaphors used in far-right discourse stand for alienation, estrangement, and radical social criticism.' Discuss, with examples.
- OR b) How far do you agree with the claim that in the radical right's discourse, adherence to racist ideology centres around the threat of elimination of the German *Kulturation*?
3. EITHER a) 'In der DDR hatte sich seit 1945 bis 1990 ein von der Sprache der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und Westberlin abweichender Sprachgebrauch entwickelt mit teilweise anderen Wörtern, Redewendungen und anderen Wortbedeutungen als in der Bundesrepublik.' With reference to this quotation, discuss whether *DDR-Sprache* can be considered as a regional variety of German.

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- OR b) ‘Die deutsche Wiedervereinigung verlangte den Ostdeutschen eine schnelle und weitgehende Assimilation an Politik, Kultur und Gesellschaft der Bundesrepublik ab.’ To what extent do you agree with the claim that ‘sprachlich (...) diese Anpassung noch nicht vollzogen worden ist’?
4. EITHER a) ‘Der Gebrauch der männlichen Sprachform führt zu einem geringen gedanklichen Einbezug von Frauen. Alternative Sprachformen lösen Reflektionen über die Geschlechterverteilung aus. Die männliche Sprachform wird hingegen relativ automatisch verarbeitet, da sie in den meisten Sprachsituationen verwendet wird.’ How far do you agree that it is necessary to modify the German language in order to change women’s position in society?
- OR b) ‘If we believe that women and men have different styles and that the male is the standard, we are hurting both women and men’. In the light of this opinion, consider, how useful the difference approach is to understand gender specific language.
5. EITHER a) ‘Werbung benutzt Sprache auf kreative Weise’. Discuss, providing examples from German.
- OR b) What are distinctive aspects (for example of layout, lexis, style and textual structure) of persuasive texts in the media? Discuss with reference to EITHER newspapers OR radio in the German-speaking world.
- OR c) ‘Die Grenzziehungen zwischen Bild, Sprache und Schrift werden durch die semiotischen Praktiken, die sich im Internet entwickeln, auf tiefgreifende Weise verändert’. Discuss, with examples..

–END OF PAPER–