

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualifications:-

B.A. B.Sc.

German C344: Language, Power and Ideology Take-Home

COURSE CODE : GERMC344

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 08-MAY-03

TIME : 12.00

TIME ALLOWED : Hours

GERMC344
LANGUAGE, POWER AND IDEOLOGY

Take-home paper

To be collected on 8 May 2003 from 12 noon onwards.

To be returned on 13 May 2003 by 5.00 pm.

ANSWER THREE 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) 'The Nazis committed acts of violence upon the German language. Their corrupted lexis and syntax express their way of thinking and closely relate to their political system.' How accurate is it to depict National Socialist usage as an 'abuse' or 'misuse' of language?

OR b) 'At first sight the discourse of National Socialism appears to be full of movement and dynamism, but at its core it is monolithic and inert.' Discuss, with examples.
2. EITHER a) To what extent can right-wing discourse be regarded as a 'discourse of discontent'?

OR b) Outline the relationship between racism in everyday discourse and in extreme right-wing texts.
3. EITHER a) 'In Ost- und Westdeutschland konnte von einer wirklichen Auseinanderentwicklung nicht die Rede sein. Gewiss war der politische Wortschatz in den beiden Staaten sehr unterschiedlich, und mit neuen Einrichtungen sind auch neue Wörter aufgekommen, die im jeweils anderen Staat nicht ohne weiteres verstanden werden.' With reference to this quotation, discuss the relationship between the German language in the FRG and GDR since 1945, including, if you wish, developments since 1989.

OR b) To what extent could the identification of a 'DDR-Sprache' be regarded as an attempt to demonise its political system by linguistic means?

TURN OVER

4. EITHER a) 'Since language not only reflects but also helps to construct and perpetuate a sexist reality, taking linguistic action is not futile. Indeed it can contribute to change, especially by alerting people to the pervasiveness of sexism in all aspects of life, including language.'
Discuss.
- OR b) 'It is unhelpful for linguists to continue to use models of gendered speech which imply that masculinity and femininity are monolithic constructs, automatically giving rise to predictable (and utterly different) patterns of interaction.' Consider in the light of this quotation how gender is constructed through discourse.

END OF PAPER