

## **LING 101: Report 1**

Value: 25%

Due date: Thursday 6 Apr 6pm

### **Instructions**

Complete all the parts of this report. Write a maximum of 1000 words  $\pm 10\%$ . You are NOT expected to use secondary material, or reference any other material. The focus of this report is on YOUR language use and your perceptions of how language is used around you.

### **Submission**

Your completed report should be uploaded to CANVAS on or before the due date. Ensure you submit well ahead of the due time. A technical failure at 5.59pm on the due day is not sufficient reason for late acceptance. Reports submitted after the due date and time, without a prior arrangement to do so, will not be marked.

### **Extensions**

Extensions will only be given under extraordinary circumstances. Please contact your lecturer early on if you think you need one. You have two and a half weeks for this report – do not leave it to the last minute and then ask for an extension.

### **Our expectations**

With a 1000 word limit ( $\pm 10\%$ ), there is no space to follow the academic essay format of 'Intro / body / conclusion'. Your writing will need to be concise and immediately on-topic. Marks will be given for a coherent discussion as far as the word limit allows, adherence to the task requirements and the application of relevant sociolinguistic concepts.

### **Questions and concerns**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the report or its submission, contact your GTA before the deadline.

### **Marking**

You will be marked on your ability to analyse a linguistic situation and write a simple report.

- 10% will be given to the discussion of your communities of practice, and whether you successfully demonstrate your understanding of them.
- 10% will be given to your sociolinguistic analysis, discussion of the linguistic features within your communities of practice, and explanation for why these features may be used.
- 5% quality of writing. Although this is a report and not an essay, it is still expected that you write in academic English.

## **1. Your communities of practice**

Diarise your daily interactions noting which networks / communities of practice (family, friends, sport, church, work, university, social groups etc.) you engage with over a typical week. Think about who you interact with and your speech while doing so.

(i) Identify two separate communities of practice where you alter your speech. Explain why these constitute communities of practice.

(ii) Note with examples what it is you and other members alter (pronunciation, sentence length, grammar, word choice etc.) and the adjustments you make to them. Do you alter your speech to 'fit in' or not? If not why not? Do you vary much between what you consider your formal / casual / informal speech?

When you discuss linguistic features, you might like to consider phonetics, vocabulary, syntax (grammar), semantics (different meanings of words/phrases) and formulaic conversation structure. Not every community of practice will have all of these, but these are the things to look out for.

To explain these features, you might need to use sociolinguistic concepts taught in lectures, e.g. solidarity, status, prestige, domains, accommodation, standard and non-standard (this is not an exhaustive list – there are many other concepts which may be discussed).