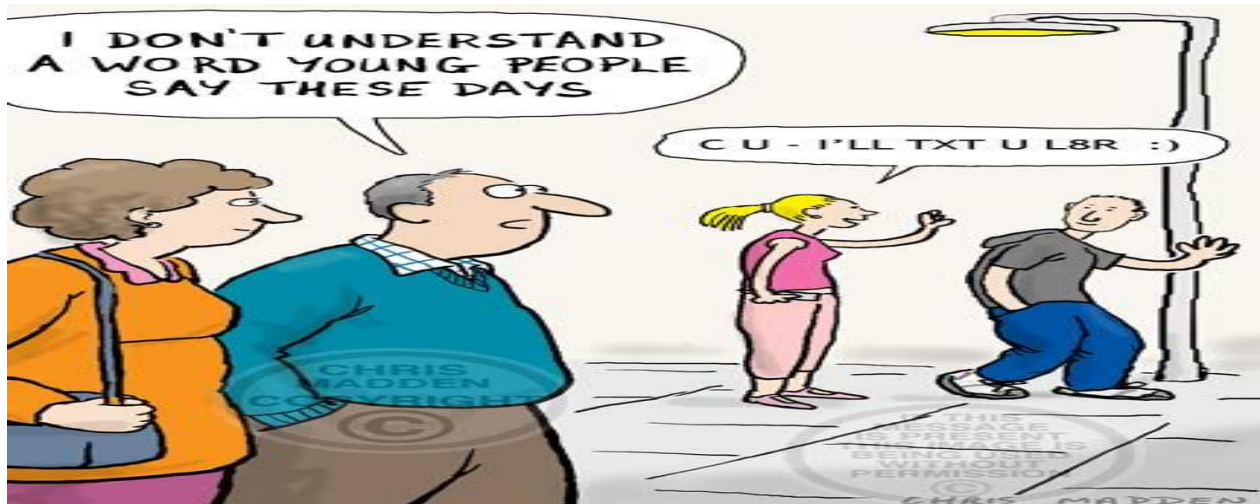


SHORT ASSIGNMENT 1: LINGUISTIC REFLECTION



### Description

We are all aware of how people around us use language. But rarely do we take a step back to think and articulate our observations about our own language use, the relationship of language to our identities, and the power of language more generally. Traveling to or living in different parts of a country can heighten our awareness of dialects; likewise, learning traditional grammatical rules can highlight the difference between our spoken and written language. At the end, we all speak a dialect and we all have an accent. While all dialects and accents are equal linguistically, they are not considered equal socially: speakers often have biases for and against particular varieties of English (e.g. some are considered “good”, others “bad”; some are described as “cool sounding”, others as “ugly sounding”). This assignment asks you to begin to think critically and reflectively about how intertwined language is with our identities, how our beliefs about language work, how we hold stereotypes about language, and where those stereotypes may have come from.

### Task

- Write a personal linguistic reflection that presents a claim about the relationship of language to identity and/or about the power of language based on your personal experiences with language, whether in relation to your own language use or the language use of others you know.
- Examine the role of language in your life and what you have witnessed or experienced about the relationship of language to aspects of identity. If possible, try to include in your reflection specific examples of spoken or written language use to support and/or explain your points.

## Guiding Questions

You may already have ideas about what you want to talk about in this paper. If you don't, here are some areas to think about. This should not be used as a "checklist" for writing the paper; it is designed merely to help you generate ideas that will lead to larger questions you can explore:

- Your control of dialect(s) and/or language(s): Do you control more than one dialect? How would you describe your dialect(s)? Are you multilingual? How do others respond to your dialect(s) and/or language(s)? When did you become aware of dialect and/or accent differences? Have you witnessed or experienced discrimination based on language? What was your response?
- Your control of different spoken registers and styles: Do you find that you speak differently in different circumstances? If so, what effects does this have as you navigate your social worlds? Are you aware of changing your speech style? How do you feel about your spoken language?
- Your control of different written registers: Do you find that you write differently in different circumstances? How do your email and texting, for example, compare to your academic work? How would you characterize your "written style"? How do you feel about your written language?
- Your language education: What have teachers told you about language? What have teachers told you about your use of language (written and spoken)? What was your response?
- Your early formative years: What dialect(s) or language(s) do/did your parents speak? Was language ever discussed in your house when you were growing up and, if so, how? What other circumstances and considerations may have affected your language development?
- Your pet peeves: Are there examples of language use that really bother you? Do you ever find yourself correcting others, or yourself? If so, how do they respond? And what do you make of your desire to "fix" the language of others?
- Power of language: Are there words you will not use? If so, why not? Are there words that you find particularly jarring or offensive if you hear others use them? If so, why?

## Requirements

- Format: 2-3 Pages, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman.
- Due date: Tuesday, January 9, 11:59 pm. Submitted via Canvas.

Short Assignment 1 Rubric	Outstanding	Strong	Good	Adequate	Inadequate
Presents a claim about the relationship of language to identity and/or about the power of language based on your personal experiences with language.					
Makes language choices that reflect the genre of this piece and work to strengthen the claim, given the audience chosen.					
Includes specific examples of spoken or written language.					
The examples used help support the claim.					
The writing is edited and relatively error-free.					