Independent Learning

Below, you’ll find Independent Learning Project description. Feel free to use the Table of Contents and/or document headings to navigate this document more easily.

**Syllabus Assignment Description**

**Independent Learning 10%**

Independent Learning assignment, built on the principle of differentiated instruction (Tomlinson et al., 2003). Research shows that a Learning Menu boosts students’ learning (Anderson, 2016), motivates (Ambrose et al., 2010), and allows students to exercise their agency (Larsen-Freeman et al., 2021). Independent Learning will also significantly enhance your understanding of course material, encourage deeper learning, and will better prepare you as future English teachers or language scholars. In this category, you have 5 options. All options are worth **80 points** and require you to spend a certain number of **hours** (per semester) on the option of your choice and keep a log. By choosing one of them, you will get a chance to put into practice your newly acquired linguistic knowledge, compare real-life situations with theory from our textbook, and have fun! All detailed instructions and sample logs are provided on Canvas.

It’s possible to mix and match these 5 options, but **you have to discuss it with Ana first.** You will have to let me know about the option of your choice and your selected challenge level by the end of Week 2, midnight.

**Option 1: Community Engagement**

You will be provided with a list of campus organizations you can get involved with as a part of this option. Popular choices include the Cross-Cultural Conversation Connection Program, Inclusive and Culturally Responsive Educators, World Language Educators, Bridges International, and others.

**Option 2: Reading**

You will be provided with a list of language- and linguistics-related books/ chapters to choose from. All reading materials are available through BGSU library, Wood County District Public Library, or OhioLINK (links posted on Canvas).

**Option 3: Movies**

You will be provided with a list of language- and linguistics-related fiction and documentary movies to choose from. All movies are available either through BGSU library, Wood County
District Public Library, OhioLINK, or streaming services like Netflix and Apple TV+ (links posted on Canvas).

**Option 4: Podcasts**
You will be provided with a list of language- and linguistics-related podcasts to choose from. All podcasts on the list are freely available online.

**Option 5: Language Learning**
You will be required to use the resources of your choice (or use the ones suggested on Canvas) to study a foreign language you’ve never studied before.

### Grading, Challenge Levels, and Checkpoints

#### Variable Challenge Levels

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#### Rubric

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**Independent LearningCheckpoint Reflection**

(submitted three times/semester; used together with the Independent LearningCheckpoint Log submission; set up as a discussion board)

### Assignment Overview

In this discussion board, you are invited to share your Independent Learning in-progress. You may choose to respond to one or more of the following questions:

- How did you experience the various Independent Learning resources you have explored for this assignment? What option(s) have you been working on?
- How is what you’ve done related to language and/or linguistics?
• How did the Independent Learning assignment help you understand certain topics in this class (if at all)?
• What did you find interesting/ strange/ surprising as you have been working on your Independent Learning?
• How can you apply what you have explored and discussed to your teaching practice (or a different professional or personal area)?
• Would you recommend what you've done for this project to anyone else in this class? Why/ why not?

Guidelines

Part 1 (5 points) Primary Post due before class:
Respond to one or more questions.

OPTIONAL Part 2 due midnight:
After you post your response, read someone else's post and comment on it. If possible, respond to the posts that have no (or fewer) responses.

Assessment

This project will be graded for completion.
Option 1: Community Engagement

To receive credit for Community Engagement, you will be required to meet a certain number of hours (according to your selected challenge level) with an organization of your choice (see the list below) during the semester and keep a community engagement log.

Questions to consider answering in your log entries after each meeting:

- What did you do during this meeting?
- What did you learn today after meeting with your group/team/organization?
- What do you think your group/team/organization learned from you today?
- How can your linguistic knowledge enrich your group/team/organization?
- What can your group/team/organization add to your understanding of linguistics?
- What were you surprised about today?
- Feelings/thoughts/observations/conclusions you made.

Sample Log Entry

Cross-Cultural Conversation Connection Log
Spring 2023

Name: [Student Name]

CCCC team: [Student Name], [Student Name], [Student Name], [Student Name]

Session #1:

Date: February 9, 2023 Location: CCCC kick-off Party

Brief Description of what you discussed (a couple of sentences):

I met my partner at the CCCC kick-off Party. We introduced ourselves and exchanged phone numbers. We also talked about our schedules in order to figure times that would be best for us to meet. [Student] informed us all of the customs in the part of India in which she lives. She then asked about all the different American holidays and we all took turns describing different ones.

List of Organizations

1. Cross-Cultural Conversation Connection
   The Cross-Cultural Conversation Connection (CCCC) Program is an organization at BGSU that pairs international students and domestic students together in conversation groups to provide a social setting for students to practice their English speaking skills and build a deeper cultural understanding throughout the student body here at BGSU. I highly recommend choosing this option if you are planning to teach English in the nearest future. It will allow you to interact with non-native speakers as well as to make other
American friends. Great for those who are not afraid to learn about other countries/cultures and to communicate with people who are very different from you. In order to get involved with this program, follow this link to apply. Applications are due by the end of the second week of the semester.

2. Inclusive and Culturally Responsive Educators
ICRE (Inclusive Culturally Responsive Educators) strives to promote diverse students, teachers, topics, current events, and ongoing issues in education that have otherwise been overlooked in this career field overall. Through this student led organization we are dedicated to building a community of growth and learning. Education is a field of immense opportunity and endless learning. Due to this ICREs is passionately focused on uplifting and allocating educational resources for students and teachers of diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. We live in a time where students need more exposure to inclusive teaching practices and strategies. As educators there is a lack of racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse teachers. With both of these factors comes the need for teachers that are ready to take on a culturally responsive role which is where ICRE strives to create that space to have those serious conversations regarding race, ethnicity, and culture in and outside of the classroom.

3. African People's Association
African People's Association serves as an environment for African students to share their culture with domestic and non-domestic student and faculty members, all while promoting a supportive and encouraging safe space.

4. Asian Student Union
Founded in 2019 to empower the Asian community, build solidarity, and foster a space of support, self-love, and unity.

5. Korean Culture Club
We wish to promote Korean cultural awareness both within Bowling Green State University and in the community in the form of Korean Club. Our purpose is to provide a welcoming and diverse environment for all students interested in learning about Korean culture. We hope to provide positive student interaction and unity through meetings, campus events, and community service.

6. Japanese Club
The mission of Japanese Club is to increase the student population's awareness of Japanese culture, language, and society in a fun and engaging manner.

7. German Club
German Club is open to students of every nationality and ethnic identity who have an interest in any aspect of the German-speaking world! Whether it's the language, music, Oktoberfest, sports cars, pretzels and other food, German business . . . anything and everything German (and Austrian and Swiss) is fair game at German Club! Join us!

8. India Student Association
An association for the people who wish to know more about Indian culture, festivals, values with what it stands for. ISA conducts the event throughout the year that provides a platform encouraging active participation in cultural, social and humanitarian events.

9. Latino Student Union
La Union de Estudiantes Latinos (Latino Student Union, or LSU for short), was founded at Bowling Green State University in 1972 with the purpose of stimulating the common interests, ensuring the civil liberties, and improving the quality of life for all Latinx community members.
La Union is dedicated to continually strengthening the college life experience for many different students on and off-campus. With the offering of different cultural programming and activities, initiating life long relationships, and enhancing social interactions between each other, we can assist in building a group of like-minded people that come together to provide a space where we all can feel safe and comfortable with the people around us. La Union also places a priority on educating and informing the general public about Latinx culture and issues, networking with other student organizations, and serving BGSU and the Bowling Green community.
LSU is open to everyone who has an interest in the Latinx culture and its pressing issues and also, anyone looking for a place at BGSU to call "home".
Let us be the first to not only welcome you to BGSU but also to La Familia!

10. Nepal Students' Association
Nepalese Students' Association is a student organization that is established by the Nepalese undergraduate and graduate students in Bowling Green State University to serve the following purposes:

- To provide support to the Nepalese and other student communities in and around Bowling Green.
- To provide a platform for all members and interested non-members to participate in cultural, social, and humanitarian events and activities conducted by NSA throughout the year.
- To promote multicultural understanding and fellowship through cooperation, partnerships, and events that increase peace among broad spectrum of cultures.
- To share Nepalese culture and also support the multinational culture of the organization's members.
- To coordinate and promote activities, programs and fund-raising events that support the goals of the Association.

[Add on-campus or local organization to this list]
Option 2: Reading

Below is a list of books/chapters for you to consider. To receive credit for this assignment, you will be required to spend a certain number of hours (according to your selected challenge level) reading from the provided list of books/chapters and keep a reading log.

After reading your selected text, you will:

1. Write a brief **summary** of the main ideas (in your own words)
2. Write an informal **response** to the chapter/book. Your response could answer one or more of the following questions:
   - Why do you think this chapter/book is on the reading list for this class? How is it related to language/linguistics?
   - What did you learn about a different culture/language from this chapter/book?
   - What were you most surprised about in this chapter/book?
   - What does the chapter/book remind you of?
   - What is still confusing?
   - Skim the contents of our textbook and see if any of the topics described there were depicted in this chapter/book.
   - Feelings/thoughts/observations/conclusions you made.
   - What would you like to know more about?

**Sample Log Entry**

Log Entry #1

Date:
Reading Title and Author:
Total Reading Time:

Summary (3-5 sentences):

Response (3-5 sentences):

Fill out all the information in the Log Form for each time you sit down to read, continually adding on to the form.

**List of Reading Materials**

**Intro to Linguistics**
Language History (non-fiction)
1. David Shariatmadari, Don't Believe A Word: The Surprising Truth about Language, 2019. The author "explodes nine common myths about language and introduces us to some of the fundamental insights of modern linguistics."
3. Lynne Murphy, The prodigal tongue: the love-hate relationship between American and British English, 2018. Find out from this book how British and American English are similar and different.
4. Simon Horobin, Bagels, bumf, & buses: A day in the life of the English language, 2019, available through Wood County District Public Library. This book is perfect is you have always been interested in the origin of words. "Simon Horobin takes the reader on a journey through a typical day, showing how the words we use to describe routine activities - getting up, going to work, eating meals - have surprisingly fascinating histories."
5. Simon Pulleyn, Secret life of language: Discover the origins of global communication, 2018. "The Secret Life of Language uses quirky illustrations, helpful diagrams and clear text to unlock the fascinating workings behind the development of the world's languages."
6. David Adger, Language Unlimited, 2019. "Drawing on research from neuroscience, psychology, and linguistics, David Adger takes the reader on a journey to the hidden structure behind all we say (or sign) and understand."
7. David Shariatmadari, Don't believe a word: the surprising truth about language, 2020. "In this book, linguist David Shariatmadari takes us on a mind-boggling journey through the science of language, urging us to abandon our prejudices in a bid to uncover the (far more interesting) truth about what we do with words."

Words and their history
2. Kory Stamper, Word by Word: The Secret Life of Dictionaries, 2017. "With sharp wit and irreverence, Kory Stamper cracks open the complex, obsessive world of lexicography, from the agonizing decisions about what and how to define, to the knotty questions of usage in an ever-changing language. She explains why the small words are the most difficult to define, how it can take nine months to define a single word, and how our biases about language and pronunciation can have tremendous social influence."

About invented languages (non-fiction)
1. Arika Okrent, In the Land of Invented Languages, 2010. This book would be especially interesting to those who are fascinated by Star Trek's Klingon, Esperanto, and other invented languages.


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**About real languages (non-fiction)**

1. David Crystal, The history of English spelling, 2011. The book "reveals the history of Modern English spelling, tracing its origins and development from Old English up to the present day."

2. Daniel L. Everett., Don't sleep, there are snakes, 2008. "Linguist Daniel Everett lived with a small tribe of Amazonian Indians in central Brazil and was a Christian missionary when he arrived in 1977 with his family, intending to convert them. When he found they used a language that defied all existing linguistic theories and concepts, his intentions moved from conversion to study—and he spent over seven years exploring their language history."

3. Brian Church, Learn Greek in 25 years: a crash course for the linguistically challenged, 1999. An incredibly fun read for those who are interested in Greek culture and language. Even those who are not interested in it at the moment will definitely be so after starting this book.


5. Guy Deutscher, Through the language glass: how words colour your world, 2010. This book explores how language, culture, and the human mind are connected.

6. Gaston Dorren, Babel: Around the World in 20 Languages, 2018. "Learn why Russian has no word for blue, how Turkish stopped borrowing words, and why Arabic is possibly the hardest global language to learn. Look into the future of Chinese script and re-examine the Latin alphabet's gory past. Consider the difficulties of having four forms for 'I' as in Vietnamese, and the questions that arise from the way Tamil pronouns keep humans and deities apart. Witty, fascinating and utterly compelling, Babel will change the way you look at the world and how it speaks."


8. Any [Ben Zimmer's language-related article and publication](https://www.benzimmer.com/).

9. John McWhorter, Language Hoax, 2014. "Japanese has a term that covers both green and blue. Russian has separate terms for dark and light blue. Does this mean that Russians perceive these colors differently from Japanese people? Does language control and limit the way we think, such that each language gives its speakers a different 'worldview?' This opinionated book addresses the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, which argues that the language we speak shapes the way we perceive the world. Linguist John McWhorter argues that while this idea is mesmerizing, it is plainly wrong..."
Language Learning Strategies


2. Reading resources for working with ELLs– a collection of resources and studies that help support reading in ELLs.

Language and Society (non-fiction)

Raciolinguistics (Language and Race) and Education

1. April Baker-Bell, Linguistic Justice: Black Language, Literacy, Identity, and Pedagogy, 2020. A must-read for all educators-in-training. The book describes how black students navigate and negotiate their linguistic and racial identities across multiple contexts, including educational ones. "By highlighting the counterstories of Black students, Baker-Bell demonstrates how traditional approaches to language education do not account for the emotional harm, internalized linguistic racism, or consequences these approaches have on Black students' sense of self and identity... [T]his book features a range of multimodal examples and practices through instructional maps, charts, artwork, and stories that reflect the urgent need for antiracist language pedagogies in our current social and political climate."
   - Chapter 6 from this book is online and open access now.
2. April Baker-Bell, Dismantling Anti-Black Linguistic Racism in English Language Arts Classrooms: Toward an Anti-Racist Black Language Pedagogy, 2020. This article covers ideas that are similar to those you can find in her book (see above); this resource, is much shorter, though.
3. Raciolinguistics: How Language Shapes our Ideas about Race, 2016. "The book brings together a team of leading scholars-working both within and beyond the United States-to share powerful, much-needed research that helps us understand the increasingly vexed relationships between race, ethnicity, and language in our rapidly changing world."
4. Richard Hudson, Why Education Needs Linguistics (and vise versa), 2004. This article explain how the field of education benefits from linguistics.
6. Bettina L. Love, How Schools Are ‘Spirit Murdering’ Black and Brown Students, 2019. Similar to the previous article, this publication explain how educators are 'spirit murdering' black and brown students.
8. Bettina L. Love, Difficult Knowledge: When a Black Feminist Educator was Too Afraid to #SayHerName, 2017. Personal essay where the author "shares her regrets, mistakes, and fears in hopes that more conversation about how educators, especially Black female educators who are on the front lines of educating students about race-centered violence toward women, have a space to wrestle with difficult knowledge and task of teaching
anti-Black, state-sanctioned violence toward black women, while dealing with the reality that their lives and spirits are also in danger.

9. Ijeoma Oluo, So you want to talk about race, 2018. This book is about the importance of race in society. For education-majors I especially recommended Chapters 6, 7, 8 (how teachers contribute to school-to-prison pipeline and racism in our society) and Chapter 14 (about working with English language learners and the students of minority groups).


11. Nelson Flores, Jonathan Rosa, Undoing Appropriateness: Raciolinguistic Ideologies and Language Diversity in Education, 2015. "In this article, Nelson Flores and Jonathan Rosa critique appropriateness-based approaches to language diversity in education. [...] They conclude with a call for reframing language diversity in education away from a discourse of appropriateness toward one that seeks to denaturalize standardized linguistic categories."

12. Jonathan Rosa, Looking like a Language, Sounding like a Race, 2019. In this book, the author criticizes the U.S. as a fundamentally racist society built on histories of settler colonialism and enslavement and approaches institutions such as public schools as central sites in which white supremacy is enacted and reproduced. This is where the topic of language, race, power, and identity are discussed in detail. It's a great read!

13. Nelson Flores, From Academic Language to Language Architecture: Challenging Raciolinguistic Ideologies in Research and Practice, 2020. In this article, the author "argue[s] that academic language is a raciolinguistic ideology that frames racialized students as linguistically deficient and in need of remediation. [He] proposes language architecture as an alternative framing of language that can serve as a point of entry for resisting these raciolinguistic ideologies in both research and practice."

14. Any article from the special issue 'The role of race in Applied Linguistics from the Annual Review of Applied Linguistics.'

Language, Bilingualism, English Language Learners, and Accent

1. Donaldo Macedo, Decolonizing Foreign Language Education: The Misteaching of English and Other Colonial Languages, 2019. "This volume includes cutting-edge work by a select group of critical language scholars working to rigorously challenge the marginalization of foreign language education and the displacement of indigenous and non-standard language varieties through the reification of colonial languages."

2. Resources from the CUNY-New York State Initiative on Emergent Bilinguals (NYSIEB) website. Includes strategies, videos, resources, and materials for working with English language learners.


5. **Biliteracy para todos** – resource with sample lesson plans to support the development of bilingual students.

6. **Multicultural Resources** – a collection of free resources for multicultural classrooms.

7. Django Paris, H. Samy Alim, *Culturally sustaining pedagogies: Teaching and learning for justice in a changing world*, 2017. "Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies raises fundamental questions about the purpose of schooling in changing societies... The authors propose that schooling should be a site for sustaining the cultural practices of communities of color, rather than eradicating them. Chapters present theoretically grounded examples of how educators and scholars can support Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian/Pacific Islander, South African, and immigrant students as part of a collective movement towards educational justice in a changing world."


9. François Grosjean, *Bilingual: Life and reality*, 2012. "In a lively and often entertaining book, an international authority on bilingualism, son of an English mother and a French father, explores the many facets of bilingualism. In this book, Francois Grosjean draws on research, interviews, autobiographies, and the engaging examples of bilingual authors. He describes the various strategies - some useful, some not - used by parents raising bilingual children, explains how children easily pick up and forget languages, and considers how bilingualism affects the experience of emotions, thoughts, and dreams."

### Language and Gender

1. Wendy Ayres-Bennett and Helena Sanson, *Women in the History of Linguistics*, 2020. This book "is a ground-breaking investigation into women's contribution to the description, analysis, and codification of languages across a wide range of different linguistic and cultural traditions."

2. Dale Spender, *Man Made Language*, 1990. This book is "a highly influential text for the women's movement as a whole and specifically for the discipline of women's studies. Spender articulates a theory of the male control over the English language and the way that women have been systematically silenced through the forms of language, the conventions of male and female speech, the exclusion of women from print culture and the patriarchal structures at the heart of the gatekeeping process."

3. Deborah Tannen, *You’re The Only One I Can Tell*, 2017, available for free from Amazon with Audible Trial. "In this illuminating and validating new book, *New York Times* best-selling author Deborah Tannen deconstructs the ways women friends talk and how those ways can bring friends closer or pull them apart. From casual chatting to intimate confiding, from talking about problems to telling what you had for dinner, Tannen uncovers the patterns of communication and miscommunication that affect friendships at different points in our lives."

### Internet, Social Media, and Language

1. Gretchen McCulloch, *Because Internet: Understanding the new rules of language*, 2019. This book is about Internet linguistics, or, in other words, how the internet has been changing English. "Gretchen McCulloch explores the deep forces that shape human language and influence the way we communicate with one another. She explains how
your first social internet experience influences whether you prefer "LOL" or "lol," why sparkly tildes succeeded where centuries of proposals for irony punctuation had failed, what emoji have in common with physical gestures, and how the artfully disarrayed language of animal memes like lolcats and doggo made them more likely to spread.

2. Vyvyan Evans, The Emoji code: The linguistics behind smiley faces and scaredy cats, 2017. "Drawing from disciplines as diverse as linguistics, cognitive science, psychology, and neuroscience, The Emoji Code explores how emojis are expanding communication and not ending it."


4. Kendra Calhoun's article, Vine Racial Comedy as Anti-Hegemonic Humor: Linguistic Performance and Generic Innovation, 2019. The article talks about the racial comedy centering around issues affecting Black Americans. This article is a great illustration of how the issues of race, language, social class, education, and gender are intertwined and interdependent.

**Taboo Language and Swearing**

1. Emma Byrne, Swear!ng is g*od f*r you : the amaz!ng sc!ence of bad language, 2017. "Dr Emma Byrne outlines the fascinating science behind swearing; how it affects us both physically and emotionally, and how it is more natural and beneficial than we are led to believe."

**Politics and Language**

1. Jennifer Sclafani, Talking Donald Trump: A sociolinguistic study of style, metadiscourse, and political identity, 2018. "Talking Donald Trump provides a crucial contemporary example of interaction between sociolinguistics and political science, and is key reading for advanced students and researchers in the fields of sociolinguistics, language and politics, communication studies and rhetoric."

2. Daniel Midgley's popular article, A linguist explains how to write protest signs that everyone will remember, 2017. An educational but very entertaining read!

**Forensic Linguistics**


**Nonverbal communication**


**Language Blogs**

1. Educational Linguist— a blog for language arts teachers that examines language and race in education.

2. Stephen Krashen's website with his books, articles, and other publications available for FREE online.
3. Teaching and Language – a blog by Justin Garcia about classroom teaching and ELL teaching
4. Superlinguo – a blog about language and linguistics by Lauren Gawne.
5. All Things Linguistics – A blog about all things linguistic by Gretchen McCulloch. I especially recommend this post with a great collection of linguistic resources.
6. Unravel – digital magazine about language and linguistics
7. Babel Zine – magazine about language and linguistics
8. Educational Linguist Blog by Nelson Flores
9. The Language Revolution – UK blog about languages (lot of sociolinguistics there!)
10. Linguistics Roadshow – Australian language blog and list of events
11. Blog about Language (completely in German).

Language, Research, and the Brain
2. Collection of resources and research about language and the brain
3. Collection of resources and research about language, reading, and the brain
4. Collection of resources and research about teaching strategies
5. The York English Language Toolkit: a website that explains complex linguistic studies in simple words. All research studies on the website are based on British case studies.

Sign Language
1. Academic – academic vlogs and blogs about sign language and Deaf Studies research
2. Margalit Fox, Talking Hands: What Sign Language Reveals about the Mind, 2008. "Talking Hands offers a fascinating introduction to the signed languages of the world -- languages as beautiful, vital and emphatically human as any other -- explaining why they are now furnishing cognitive scientists with long-sought keys to understanding how language works in the mind."

Immigrants’ and language learning experience (personal stories; non-fiction)
1. Villanueva, Victor. Bootstraps. NCTE, 1993. This is "an unusual book: at one level it is autobiographical, detailing the life of an American of Puerto Rican extraction from his childhood in New York City to an academic post at a university. At another level, Villanueva ponders his experiences in light of the history of rhetoric, the English Only movement, current socio- and psycholinguistic theory, and the writings of Gramsci and Freire, among others."
   - Code Switching / Ginu Kamani
   - Reluctant Citizen / Annette Gallagher Weisman
   - On Becoming / Nelly Rosario
"Teens from around the world describe the exciting (and scary) experience of leaving their countries and coming to the U.S. These stories will help both foreign-and native-born teens better understand the conflicts and contradictions of the immigrant experience"—Publisher's Web site

Recommended chapters:
- Ariel Dorfman | “Breaking Down the Glass Walls of Language”
- Eva Hoffman | from Lost in Translation
- Chang-rae Lee | from Native Speaker
- Josip Novakovich | “Grandmother’s Tongue”
- Gary Shteyngart | “The Mother Tongue Between Two Slices of Rye”


Recommended chapters:
- The English lesson / Nicholasa Mohr
- Seventeen syllables / Hisaye Yamamoto

Recommended chapters:
- From To see and see again: a life in Iran and America / Tara Bahrampour
- From Native speaker / Chang-rae Lee
- Pidgin contest along I-5 / Frank Chin
- Mexico's children / Richard Rodriguez

Recommended chapter:
- Chapter 6: Living Like a Kite/ Shakir Quraishi


10. Min-Zhan Lu, short article From Silence to Words: Writing as Struggle, 1987. A biographical essay discussing how the experiences with learning a language affected the author in his career.

11. Mary Louise Pratt, short article Arts of the Contact Zone, 1991. Great article for all English teachers to read!

**Fiction**


4. Ted Chiang. *Story of Your Life*, 2002. Novella. Before reading this novella, read what the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis is in Chapter 1 (section 1-4 "Language and Thought"). Pay special attention to how this hypothesis shapes the story.


6. Rainbow Rowell, *Carry On*, 2015. This novel has many linguistically interesting portions! For example, the characters swear by invoking the names of famous magicians and linguists, one of whom is Chomsky.
Option 3: Video Materials

Below you will find a list of movies about language learners, language, and linguistics for you to consider. All of them are available through the BGSU library to you for free (links are below)! To receive credit for this assignment, you will be required to spend a certain number of hours (according to your selected challenge level) watching movies (how fun is that?!?) and keep a log. Your log entries should include any observations, conclusions you make after watching the movies from the list.

After watching your selected movie, you will:

1. Write a brief **summary** of the main ideas (in your own words)
2. Write an informal **response** to the movie. Your response could answer one or more of the following questions:
   a. Why do you think this video is on the list for students in this class to watch? How is it related to language/linguistics?
   b. What did you learn about a different culture/language/culture from this movie?
   c. What were you most surprised about in this movie?
   d. What does the movie remind you of?
   e. What is still confusing?
   f. Are there any stereotypes that are reinforced through this movie?
   g. Skim the contents of our textbook and see if any of the topics described there were depicted in this movie.
   h. Feelings/thoughts/observations/conclusions you made.
   i. What would you like to know more about?

**Sample Log Entry**

**Log Entry #1**

Date: 
Movie Title: 
Total Watching Time: 

Summary (3-5 sentences):

Response (3-5 sentences):

Fill out all the information in the Log Form for each movie, continually adding on to the form.

**List of Video Materials**

Non-fiction/documentaries

**Historical Linguistics**
1. Many tongues called English (2003): The non-fiction movie "explores how America's rise as an economic power made it the driving force behind the spread of English in the 20th century."

2. Speaking in tongues (2009): "You'll be charmed and challenged by this award-winning film's insightful exploration of the rewards and hurdles these pioneering students face as they become bilingual. Enter their world, and ask yourself – today, is one language enough?"

3. The Linguists (2008): The story of traveling linguists who discover new languages and cultures


5. The Endless Knot (2021): "A YouTube series about etymological explorations and cultural connections, using language, literature, and history to explore the web of connections in the world around us."


7. Dr Word Person (videos about phonetics and ancient languages): YouTube series

8. Netflix History of Swear Words (2021). "Nicolas Cage hosts this proudly profane, funny, and engagingly educational series about the history and impact of the most notorious English swear words."

Language Acquisition

1. The Miracle Worker (1962): A story of deaf Hellen Keller who is taught English. A must-see for all linguists! Based on a real story.


3. The secret of the Wild Child (2006): The movie "examines the case of "Genie," a girl whose parents kept her locked in a bedroom in total isolation, until she was discovered in 1970 at age 13. At first, her rehabilitation seemed to be an opportunity to test hypotheses of language acquisition, but disputes about the nature of her disabilities, the intensity of her therapy, and the progress of government-funded research turned Genie's case into a sad example of the ethical quandaries of research on human subjects."

4. The Miracle of the Little Prince (2019). "Marjoleine Boonstra visits the people who have translated this little masterpiece from French into Tibetan, Tamazight, Sami, and Nawat. All of these languages are under threat. Passionately enthusiastic language researchers, teachers, and translators talk about how the observations of an alien prince on earth are interpreted in their own culture."

Animal Communication

1. Project Nim (2012). The story of Nim, the chimpanzee who became the focus of a landmark 1970s experiment to show that an ape could learn to communicate with language if raised and nurtured like a human child."


3. The Girl who talked to dolphins, 2014. BBC
**Linguistics in general**

1. Linguistic Society of America, Lecture of Noam Chomsky, *What is Language and why does it matter?*
2. YouTube Crash Course: Linguistics: It's a relatively new playlist added to the Crash Course channel. As of January 2021, it includes 15 videos.
3. The Ling Space: YouTube series with videos about the basics of linguistics
4. NativLang: YouTube channel with animated movies about languages and language history.
5. Tom's Language Files: YouTube channel with videos about linguistics and language.
6. Let's Go A-Linguisting!: YouTube channel

**Language and Society (Sociolinguistics)**

1. YouTube Mike Mena Channel: This is a YouTube podcast about the social life of language. Some of the recent episodes are about code-switching, translanguaging and education, race & language, linguistic profiling, and other amazing topics!
2. Talking Black in America Project: A five-part documentary series

**Linguistics and Education**

2. Linguistic Society of America, Centering linguistic diversity and justice in course design, 2020.

**Language and the Brain**

1. Steven Pinker: Linguistics as a Window to Understanding the Brain, 2012.

**Constructing your own Languages**

1. Conlanging videos: YouTube channel describing the basics of creating your own languages.

**About other languages**

1. Common sounds in Australian Indigenous languages
2. Cuando Muere una Lengua / When a tongue dies” is a video from the project 68 voces (68 voices), a project “to promote the pride, respect, and use of these indigenous Mexican languages among native speakers, and non-native speakers.”
3. LangFocus (videos about specific languages or comparing two related languages): YouTube series
4. A classic documentary on Canadian English
5. Rising voices/Hóthánjipi, a documentary about revitalizing the Lakota language, 2016.
Reality Shows
1. Deaf U (2020). In this Netflix series, a tight-knit group of deaf students at Gallaudet University navigate the high, lows, and hookups of college life together; their stories offer an unprecedented, unfiltered, and often unexpected look inside the deaf community.

Individual videos (YouTube/ TedTalks)

Learning a language
1. Four reasons to learn a new language (John McWhorter)
2. Hacking Language Learning (Conor Quinn)

Sociolinguistics (Language in Society)
1. How we judge others when they speak (and we should stop)
2. Lifting Black Voices in Children’s Books
3. The Significance of Linguistic Profiling
4. 3 ways to speak English
5. Grammar Skool
6. Embracing Multilingualism and Eradicating Linguistic Bias
7. From Linguistic Racism to Linguistic Justice and Liberation: Black Language, Literacy, and Learning
8. Videos from the CUNY-New York State Initiative on Emergent Bilinguals (NYSIEB) website. Includes strategies, videos, resources, and materials for working with English language learners.
9. Collection of videos from Black Language Education: These videos and resources highlight teachers, praxis, and histories where Black Language has shaped classroom and community learning for Black children and youth.

Language Features and Language Acquisition
1. The Dangerous Ambiguity of Prepositions
2. The linguistic genius of babies (Patricia Kuhl)

Language and Internet
1. Can You Speak Emoji? PBS Idea Channel

Language and the Brain
1. How much information? (Veritasium)
2. World-record fast talkers (and how that works in the brain)

Words, Dictionaries, and Lexicography
1. What makes a word “real”? (Anne Curzan)
2. Redefining the dictionary (Erin McKean)

Other Languages
2. Robots talking with Robots - How Lingodroids invent their own language (Janet Wiles)
3. Deaf children need sign language (Drisana Levitzke-Gray)
Fiction Based on Real Events
1. Manhunt: Unabomber (2017), Netflix – fictional series based on true events describing how knowledge of language and language structures can help solve crimes.
2. The enigma of Kaspar Hauser (1975): This movie is based on a true story about one of the few socially isolated children who learned to speak after the age of 17. Pay special attention to how he was taught to speak, read, and write.

Movies in other Languages/ Dialects
2. Apocalypto (2006): This movie was filmed entirely in the Yucatec Maya language (with subtitles).
3. The Last of the Mohicans (1992): The characters in the movie were supposed to be speaking either Mahican or Mohegan, but in actual fact, they're not. The "Huron" characters in the movie are actually speaking two different languages, Cherokee and Mohawk, while the "Mohican" characters are speaking Delaware/Lenape, which is related to both Mohican and Mohegan and is probably a good compromise.

Fiction and Science Fiction
Sociolinguistics (Language in Society)
1. The Chair (2021): A Netflix show that illustrates the story of a woman of color who becomes chair of the English Department at a major university. Language, politics, and raciolinguistic aspects make this show a great candidate for this assignment.
2. Sorry to bother you (2018): A movie about a young African-American telemarketer who adopts a white accent in order to thrive at his job
3. Ball of Fire (1941): Pay attention to slang and how entries to the dictionary are added
4. Chan is Missing (1982): Includes a lecture on sociolinguistics and shows how Chinese-Americans are trying to assimilate into contemporary American society

Language Acquisition
1. English Vinglish (2012): Pay special attention to how English language learners communicate and how they are taught
3. The Terminal (2004): Pay special attention to the procedures at the international terminal for foreigners, to the feelings and reactions of a person who comes to the United States without knowing English, the strategies for learning English under very unusual circumstances, and the way his language changes with time
4. Black (2005): Hindi movie about a woman who can’t hear, see or talk. Inspired by the story of Hellen Keller.
5. Nell (1994). "The backwoods of North Carolina is where Nell lives, all alone. She has her own form of language and no idea of a world beyond her small plot of land. When civilization enters her life, Nell's life will never be the same again."

**Language Variety, Diversity, and Different Cultures**

1. Everything is Illuminated (2006): Pay special attention to the way Russian and Ukrainian sounds, language history, cultural peculiarities.
2. Youth without youth (2008): Pay special attention to accents, discussions of different languages, especially Chinese, how different languages sound (Hungarian, German, Russian, Sanskrit), English with a Hungarian accent, English with a German accent, the roots of all languages.
5. Cold Mountain (2004): While watching this movie, pay attention to the accents and dialects. This film represents Appalachian English very accurately!

**Language and Thought**

1. Arrival (2016): Before watching this movie, read what the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis is in Chapter 1 (section "Language and Thought"). Pay special attention to how this hypothesis shapes the story.
2. Iceman (1984): Pay attention to how a linguist from MIT decodes a speech of a man using a "pitch stress meter".
3. Pontypool (2010): See how a linguist can save the world!

**Historical Linguistics**

1. Windtalkers (2002): A drama about the use of the Navajo language as a secret code during World War II.
2. On Top of the Whale (1982): A parody of anthropology, linguistics, and cultural imperialism. The film follows an unlikely team of linguists into the wilds of an ersatz Patagonia to study the last speakers of a dying language.

**Translation**

2. Truly, Madly, Deeply (1990): The protagonist in this movie works at a translation agency. She translates Spanish into English for her boss at work and English into Spanish for her pregnant Chilean friend. Notice how a translation process is happening.

**Sign Language**
1. **CODA** (2021): The movie tells a story of a child of deaf adults (CODA) – the only hearing person in a deaf family – who discovers a passion for singing.

2. **Sound of Metal** (2019): A movie about a metal drummer who loses his hearing. The movie portrays tensions between the deaf and hearing community as well as touches on the cochlear implant debate.

3. **Switched at Birth** (2011-2017), available on Hulu. This 2011-2017 drama series about two teen daughters who were switched at birth discusses everything from family dynamics and self-identity to hearing loss, with one of its chief characters and a prominent supporting character both played by deaf actors fluent in American Sign Language (ASL).
Option 4: Podcasts

Below you will find a list of language- and linguistics-related podcasts for you to consider. All podcasts on the list are freely available online. To receive credit for this assignment, you will be required to spend a certain number of hours (according to your selected challenge level) listening to podcasts and keep a podcast log. Your log entries should include any observations, conclusions you make after listening to the podcasts from the list.

After watching your selected movie, you will:

1. Write a brief summary of the main ideas (in your own words)
2. Write an informal response to the podcast episode. Your response could answer one or more of the following questions:
   a. Why do you think this podcast/episode is on the list for students in this class to listen to? How is it related to language/linguistics?
   b. What did you learn about a language/culture from this podcast?
   c. What were you most surprised about in this episode?
   d. What does the podcast remind you of?
   e. What is still confusing?
   f. Skim the contents of our textbook and see if any of the topics described there were depicted in this podcast.
   g. Feelings/thoughts/observations/conclusions you made.
   h. What would you like to know more about?

Sample Log Entry

Log Entry #1

Date:
Podcast & Episode Title:
Total Listening Time:

Summary (3-5 sentences):

Response (3-5 sentences):

Fill out all the information in the Log Form for each podcast episode, continually adding on to the form.

List of Podcasts

Intro to Linguistics and General Language Nerdery
1. Five-minute Linguist podcast – A podcast about languages, grammar, culture, and all things linguistics. All episodes are 5 minutes long (hence, the name!) and succinctly
cover certain language-related topics. If you've never listened to any language podcasts, this is a great one to start with. It can be downloaded on your phone and listened while you're on your way to our class.

2. **Lingthusiasm podcast** – A podcast about language, and the English language in particular. They have episodes focused on grammar, usage, and mechanics, as well as a range of other pieces about language and linguistics. Be selective with this podcast as some of the episodes can be too technical and go to deep into terminology. Otherwise, it's great.

3. **Talk the Talk podcast** – It was one of the first language-related podcasts created, and as of January 2020, it has around 400 episodes about all-things-language. Although it is a wonderful podcast and has a lot to offer, finding something here might be overwhelming. So, go here only when you know what you're interested in (in terms of language, of course).

4. **Word to the Whys podcast** – Canadian "podcast where linguists talk about why we do linguistics"; includes episodes about all fields of linguistics.

5. **Linguistics After Dark podcast** – Linguistics as a drinking game: "a podcast where three linguists (and sometimes other people) answer your burning questions about language, linguistics, and whatever else you need advice about. We have three rules: any question is fair game, there's no research allowed, and if we can't answer, we have to drink."

6. **Taffy the Logolept livestreams** – Taffy is an English teacher who is passionate about linguistics. She does livestreams on Twitch.

7. **The Speakeasy podcast** – Every week, Daniel Midgley, one of the hosts in the Talk the Talk podcast, talks about language on ABC Radio Perth 720.

8. **Because Language podcast** – Another great podcast about language with Daniel Midgley.

9. **Lexis Links podcast** – "A conversation about linguistics with a topical UK focus, from Matthew Butler, Lisa Casey, Dan Clayton and Jacky Glancey."

10. **The Weekly Linguist** An interview podcast about the languages of the world and the linguists who study them from Jarrette Allen and Lisa Sprowls.

11. **Subtitle** A podcast about languages and the people who speak them, from Patrick Cox and Kavita Pillay. For those who miss Patrick’s old podcast, **The World in Words**.

12. **Word of Mouth** – BBC podcast

### For Language Learning

1. **Learning Scientists podcast** – A podcast not necessarily about linguistics, but related to learning languages and learning overall. This is a good podcast to explore if you are trying to learn a new language and are looking for effective strategies to do so.

2. **America the Bilingual** Dedicated to the pursuit of bilingualism in the USA.

### For Building your own Language

1. **Linguitect podcast** – "Matt, Rowan and Liam explain linguistic topics and talk about how to build them into your conlang."

2. **Conlangery podcast** – "Particularly for those with an interest in constructed languages, they also have episodes that focus on specific natural languages, or linguistic phenomena. Newer episodes have transcripts."

3. **Language Creation Society Podcast** (8 episodes, 2009-2011)
Language History
1. History of English "Meticulously researched, professionally produced and engaging content on the history of English."
2. Why is English? "A podcast about how the English language got to be the way it is, from Laura Brandt."
3. A Way with Words podcast – "A public radio program about language examined through history, culture, and family." It is geared toward the general audience and requires zero terminology background or any linguistic knowledge whatsoever. As of January 2020, it has more than 1500 fun episodes!
4. History and Philosophy of the Language Sciences – "sub-30 minute episodes about the history of linguistics from James McElvenny, with the occasional interviews."
5. That’s What They Say podcast (similar to A Way with Words). Hosted by Anne Curzan from the University of Michigan, this podcast uses linguistics to explain why we say what we say in English.

Word Origins and Dictionaries
1. Something Rhymes With Purple podcast – "Susie Dent and Gyles Brandreth uncover the hidden origins of language and share their love of words."
2. Word Bomb Hosts Pippa Johnstone and Karina Palmitesta explore one word per week, using particular words for a deep dive into linguistic and social issues.
3. Words for Granted podcast – a podcast about word origins and etymology.
4. Wordy Wordpecker – Short weekly episodes from Rachel Lopez, charting the stories of English words.
5. Lexitecture podcast – A podcast about the origin of words and their etymology
6. Word For Word From Macquarie dictionary, with a focus on Australian English.
7. Word Matters From the editors at Merriam-Webster, hosted by Emily Brewster, Neil Serven, Ammon Shea, and Peter Sokolowski.
8. Bunny Trails – "Each week, we delve into the origins of phrases to find out how they came into the English language. We tell the story of the phrase from its beginnings to where it is today. Shauna and Dan are two big nerds, so expect some geek culture references, random trivia facts, and loads of laughs!"
9. Science Diction – NPR podcast: "we bring you Science Diction, a bite-sized podcast about words—and the science stories behind them. Hosted by SciFri producer and self-proclaimed word nerd Johanna Mayer, each episode of Science Diction digs into the origin of a single word or phrase, and, with the help of historians, authors, etymologists, and scientists, reveals a surprising science connection."
10. Animalogy Vegan blogger Colleen Patrick Goudreau uses her love of animals as a starting point for exploring animal-related etymologies.

Swearing
1. Very Bad Words – A podcast about swearing, taboo words, and our cultural relationship to it.

About/ in other languages
1. Slavstvuyte! A podcast for everyone who is fascinated by Slavic languages from Dina Stankovic.
2. **Motherfoclóir** podcast – A podcast about Irish words, their origin, and grammar.
3. **Parler Comme Jamais** "A French language podcast from Binge Audio. Monthly episodes from Laélia Véron."
4. **Språket** "A Swedish language podcast from Sveriges Radio about language use and change."
5. **BabelPodcast** "A Portuguese language podcast from Brazil, hosted by Cecilia Farias and Gruno."
6. **War of Words** "A Spanish language podcast about linguistics from Juana de los Santos, Ángela Rodríguez, Néstor Bermúdez and Antonella Moschetti."
7. **Con la lengua fuera** "A Spanish language podcast from Macarena Gil y Nerea Fernández de Gobeo."
8. **Hablando mal y pronto** "A Spanish language conversational podcast from Santiago, Juan and Magui."

**Phonetics**
1. **Hooked on Phonetics** podcast – "Maxwell Hope provides an introduction to phonetics, chatting to Geoffrey “average Joe” Farris and interviewing other phoneticians."

**Morphology**
1. **Distributed Morphs** – "An interview-based podcast about morphology from Jeffrey Punske."

**Sociolinguistics (Language in Society)**
1. **Radiolingo** is a NEW podcast produced by Duolingo in collaboration with Crooked Media.
2. **Talk American** is a single episode about Standard American dialect and the impact of linguistic injustice.
3. "**The signals accents send**" is a single episode about accents and dialects in the podcast Hear Me Out. It's worth listening to.
4. **The Black Language Podcast** – "From discussing our favorite slang terms, to complex grammar, to the implications of linguistic discrimination, this podcast reaffirms, uplifts, and gives respect to Black people of the past, present, and future."
5. **The Vocal Fries** podcast – Ana’s favorite podcast :) It is about linguistics discrimination. There are episodes about varieties of English, dialects, other languages, interrelationships between language and power, culture, and identity, as well as a rock-and-roll and rap music, sports, holidays, and even technology. Seriously, check it out! You’ll be impressed.
6. **Lexicon Valley** podcast – This podcast uses real-life situations and explains the ways we speak, read, and write with the help of linguistics.
7. **Se Ve Se Escucha** "(Seen and Heard) Language justice and what it means to be an interpreter, an organizer and bilingual in the US South, from the Center for Participatory Change."
8. **Unstandardized English** podcast – A podcast working against epistemological whiteness and raciolinguistic ideologies. It discussed the relationship between race and language and race and society in general. I highly recommend the episodes **Language Teaching and**
the white Working Class, Towards a Pedagogy of Heretical Whiteness, The Language of White Supremacy, 'Black and/or smart', "Everyone has an accent."

Linguistics and Education/ Teaching
1. Teaching to Thrive podcast – Podcast with teaching strategies that would "strengthen the everyday lives of Black and Brown students within our schools and communities. Each episode is aimed at empowering our knowledge for collective liberation."
2. Kletshead A podcast about bilingual children for parents, teachers and speech language therapists from Dr. Sharon Unsworth. Also in Dutch.

Linguistics in the Wild (Various Real-life Applications of Linguistics outside of Teaching and Education)
1. Field Notes podcast – "A podcast about linguistic fieldwork hosted by Martha Tsutsui Billins. Field Notes aims to share the stories of linguists doing fieldwork to document, describe, and understand how languages (particularly under-described and under-documented languages) work!"
2. Words & Actions podcast – "A podcast about how language matters in business, politics and beyond."
3. Talk Like That podcast – "Interviews with actors, voice artists, directors and others whose voice is part of their art."
4. En clair podcast – a podcast about forensic linguistics (linguistics for solving crimes), literary detection, language mysteries.
5. The Parlé Podcast from Canadian Speech-Language Pathologist Chantal Mayer-Crittenden.
6. Subtext A podcast about the linguistics of online dating.
7. Evolving English: Linguistics at the Library (8 episodes 2018), from the British Library.

Translation & Interpretation
1. Speaking of Translation "is an occasional podcast about the language industry, hosted by freelance translators (and enthusiastic talkers!) Eve Bodeux and Corinne McKay."
2. Troublesome Terps "The podcast about the things that keep interpreters up at night."
3. If you're interested in going into translation and interpretations services, I also suggest the following top 12 language industry podcasts.
Option 5: Language Learning

To receive credit for Language Learning, you will be required to use the resources of your choice to study a foreign language you’ve never studied before. To receive credit for this assignment, you will be required to spend a certain number of hours (according to your selected challenge level) during the semester learning a language and keep a language learning log.

Questions to consider answering in your log entries after each study session:

1. What did you learn today?
2. How difficult/easy was the material for you? Why do you think it was so difficult/easy?
3. What can the material from this study session add to your understanding of language and/or linguistics?
4. What were you surprised about today?
5. Feelings/thoughts/observations/conclusions you made.

Fun Fact: every additional language you study improves your brain health (Bak, Nissan, & Allerhand, 2014).

Sample Log Entry

Log Entry #1

Date:
Resource used for studying:
Total Study Time:

Summary (3-5 sentences):

Response (3-5 sentences):

Fill out all the information in the Log Form for each study session, continually adding on to the form.

List of Language Learning Resources

1. Language Learning Center
   The Language Learning Center (LLC) is the central site on the BGSU campus that provides technology support to language learners. This is a great place to get started (or to continue) studying the language you’ve always wanted to study! LLC is equipped with the latest computer and Internet technology as well as Rosetta Stone software. The Center is located in 004 Kohl Hall, and you can check out their website.

2. Duolingo
   Free platform/app for learning a foreign language. Limitations: can get redundant.
3. **Rype**
   Online one-on-one language lessons with language tutors.
4. **Busuu**
   Website similar to Duolingo. Pros: structured curriculum (like in Duolingo); the website community is integrated to give you feedback on your speaking skills. Cons: fewer functions available for free.
5. **Memrise**
   Vocabulary learning tool.
6. **Babbel**
   Offers a subscription service.
7. **Mango Languages**
   Very similar to Duolingo, but not as gamified.
8. **Rosetta Stone**
   Available through the Language Learning Center. The pros and cons of Rosetta Stone are discussed [here](#).
9. **MindSnaks**
   Language game.
10. **Tandem**
    This is a language exchange community, where you can find conversation partners. It's different from Duolingo in that it allows you to connect with real humans. What's missing is a curriculum and lesson plan that helps you go from beginner to intermediate or intermediate to advanced. However, it's a useful complement if you want to improve your writing skills in Spanish, French, or more.
11. **Coffee break podcast**
    A free podcast to learn foreign languages during a coffee break. Great to improve listening skills! (Can be used as a supplement to other platforms)
12. **News in Slow podcast**
    News podcast in other languages.
13. **TripLingo**
    A great tool for learning a language for travel purposes.
14. **Encore!!! Language Learning**
    Free app for language learning.