Spoken Language Study
THE MISCHIEF AND INNOVATION OF MODERN SPEECH

AS90053: FORMAL WRITING - 3 CREDITS

1.5: PRODUCE FORMAL WRITING

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Develop and structure ideas in formal writing.

Use language features appropriate to audience and purpose in formal writing. | Develop and structure ideas convincingly in formal writing.

Use language features appropriate to audience and purpose with control in formal writing. | Develop and structure ideas effectively in formal writing.

Use language features appropriate to audience and purpose with control to command attention in formal writing. |

Outline

This task is a culmination of our study of our own spoken and text language. This is an opportunity to explore the techniques of language, structure and conventions of oral language that underpin the rapid and innovative changes we're seeing in our interpersonal communication

CENTRAL HYPOTHESIS

You have the option of developing your own hypothesis, based on your spoken language investigation. Alternatively you can write a piece in response to the following:

SAMPLE HYPOTHESIS

There are many features of the language we use in digital communications which suggest text communication has **more in common** with spoken rather than written language.

Explore the implications of this to modern interpersonal communication.

Preparation

GATHER EVIDENCE

1. **Transcribe** a range of spoken and instant messaging text conversations between you and people with whom you are familiar.

2. Identify **a range of key language features** that deviate from standard written English and annotate each with the reason this deviation has occurred. Name what extra meaning or other reason the speakers/texters have deviated from the standard.

3. Identify the features that are **typical of speech** that you discover in the text communication.

4. List the **differences and similarities** between speaking and messaging

5. Explore what the language used in the transcripts may **tell us about the people speaking/messaging**: their age, relationship to each other, their location and their control over the conversation - as well as people's attitudes towards these ways of communicating.

DEVELOP AN HYPOTHESIS

Using the transcripts you have annotated, and the examination of the language effects present in these, develop an hypothesis that you believe you may be able to prove using evidence from your transcripts.

The Final Piece

SIZE

Once your initial research and preparation is completed, the final piece should be written in the form of a literary essay. While there is no specific word limit, making an effort to keep it to **1000-1200 words** will allow you to keep your argument focussed.

CONDITIONS

The final piece will be written exclusively in class over **8 periods**. The first four are considered your 'drafting' phase. You must use your online journals to complete the writing and some superficial feedback may be sought as part of the initial drafting process.

SCOPE

Your proficiency with spelling, grammar and punctuation will aid the clear and effective communication of your argument, as will conforming to a clear structure with your writing. The quality of your use of the language conventions typical of analytical writing will contribute to the final assessment judgement.

ADVICE

You are advised to refer to examples of analysis that you have been exposed to as part of the language study in order to refine your understanding of how such a piece can be constructed for effect.

Seek feedback from your teacher in the early stages of your drafting in order to ensure you are on the right track.

Exemplar

Radek Humpolík

Language of Football Commentators: An Analysis of Live English Football Commentary and its Types

The first paragraph outlines the context for the language analysis - Sports commentary, particularly football (Soccer)

==Sport and football in particular have always been a common form of entertainment.== In the last decades, with the rise of television broadcast with increasingly better filming technology, football has become commercialised, viewed by millions and a common form of popular culture. It is presently considered by many to be the world's most popular sport. Thus, the role of the commentators is very important. They have to provide commentary about the game and to entertain at the same time. They have to deal with the unfolding events on the pitch linguistically without hesitation. The nature of their job and the unusual linguistic setting is what makes their speech so specific.

The specific types of commentary that will be analysed are named and defined

==Television, although nowadays the most popular medium, is certainly not the only one where football commentary can be heard. Radio broadcasts of football matches have recently lost their popularity significantly, but are still being broadcast on a regular basis. Also, with the rise of modern technology, football simulations on gaming consoles started to appear and their popularity grew to reach millions of sold copies a year.== The commentary created specifically for these games is a very unusual type of football commentary, but clearly not an insignificant one. All these types of football commentary have much in common, but each one is also specific in its own way. This thesis will include all these types in its analysis.

The hypothesis is stated and refined.

==The aim of this thesis is to present sports commentary (with the focus on football) as a specific and independent register, to characterise it and to analyse its main features.== It will show that the internal structure of the register differs greatly depending on the extra-linguistic events it describes and that most of the features described are a direct consequence of time pressure on the commentators. Moreover, all the aforementioned types of the football commentary are taken into consideration and are then characterised. Because of the different nature of each of these types of commentary, there are bound to be some differences in the language used in them. I will try to give a delineation of these differences and explain why they emerge as I go with the analysis. Since one of those - the computer game - is a very specific type of football commentary, it seems reasonable to also try and compare it to the real-life commentary and to evaluate its level of authenticity.

EXTRACT FROM: Language of Football Commentators: An Analysis of Live English Football Commentary and its Types https://is.muni.cz/th/tmf0q/Bachelor_s_thesis.pdf [Extracted 11 March 2019]