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Language Autobiography
(GELO 2, CLO 1,2)

Introduction

In this final assignment of the semester, you will write a four- to five-page, double-spaced, Language Autobiography. The goal of the Language Autobiography is to account for every aspect of your linguistic development since birth and report it utilizing the linguistic terms learned in class. This assignment gives you the opportunity to reflect on your own language use, how it informs your identity, and how it informs the way that others identify you.

Instructions

To complete this assignment, write a paper that discusses these domains of language use (you do not have to provide answers to all of the guiding questions, but do consider them when planning what to write):

- **Family:** Begin your paper by writing about the history of language use in your family, as you know it. Guiding questions: What languages, dialects, and styles are used by your parents, grandparents, and siblings? What was your first language (or languages, if you grew up bilingual) and how did you learn it (them)? As a child, did you learn other (second, third) language(s) outside of school? How? Who taught you? Did you or your family members encounter any difficulties (within in the family, or in society) because of the language or languages that you spoke (or did not speak)? How did you or your family members navigate these difficulties?
- **Education:** Next, please discuss your experience with language in school, from the time of your first memory of school (probably, elementary school) to college. Guiding questions: What kinds of school(s) did you attend? What was their role in your language acquisition? Did you enjoy language learning in school? Do you enjoy it now? Was/is it easy/difficult for you? Why? In which languages can you read and write (that is, in which languages are you literate)? In which languages do you feel your literacy skills are the strongest? Have you studied any foreign languages in school? What level of skills did you achieve in those languages? Do you use them (are you able to use them)/do you enjoy using them?
- **Current language usage patterns**: Discuss the different languages and varieties of language that you use every day. Guiding questions: What different languages and/or varieties of language do you use daily? In which domains do you use each language/variety of language? Which do you use the most frequently? Which language/language variety do you feel is your dominant one? What is your attitude towards these languages or varieties? What are the attitudes of others in society toward your usage of these languages/language varieties? Do you code-switch or use slang? When? Why?
- **Other domains of language use**: Close your essay by considering other areas of your life that have influenced your linguistic development. Guiding questions: Has your job influenced you linguistically? If you are multilingual, has this allowed you to pursue certain job opportunities (including military service)? Have your travel experiences influenced you linguistically? Have your personal relationships affected your language usage over the years? How? Does media (of any sort) influence your language use? In which way(s)? Feel free to add any other pertinent information regarding your linguistic development.
- You are not required to use outside sources for this assignment, but if you do, be sure to cite them in the text and in a Works Cited/Reference page at the end of the paper.

When you finish writing your paper, review it for spelling and grammar, and submit it TWICE to Canvas (to the instructor review dropbox and the peer review dropbox) by the specified due date/time. Be aware that NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED because this is the final assignment of the semester. Once all submissions are received, you will be assigned a peer's paper to read and comment on.

Sample Paper

Find a sample assignment here: [LINK Navigating Two Linguistic Heritages and Other Identity Issues by Van Campbell](#)

Grading

This assignment is worth 100 points - 90 points for this paper and 10 points for peer review - and will be graded with the rubric below.

Ling 20 Language Autobiography

Criteria	Ratings						Pts
Discussion of language use in the family domain	20.0 pts Outstanding	18.0 pts Very good	16.0 pts Good	14.0 pts Adequate	12.0 pts Below expectations	0.0 pts Criterion not addressed	20.0 pts
Discussion of language use in the education domain	20.0 pts Outstanding	18.0 pts Very good	16.0 pts Good	14.0 pts Adequate	12.0 pts Below expectations	0.0 pts Criterion not addressed	20.0 pts
Discussion of current language use	20.0 pts Outstanding	18.0 pts Very good	16.0 pts Good	14.0 pts Adequate	12.0 pts Below expectations	0.0 pts Criterion not addressed	20.0 pts
Discussion of other domains of language use	20.0 pts Outstanding	18.0 pts Very good	16.0 pts Good	14.0 pts Adequate	12.0 pts Below expectations	0.0 pts Criterion not addressed	20.0 pts
Grammar/spelling/formatting	10.0 pts Outstanding/Very good Essay is double-spaced and has a title, and has been carefully edited and all or most errors have been eliminated. If outside sources are used, they are properly cited.		8.5 pts Good Essay is double-spaced and has a title, but further editing required as frequent errors remain. Sources may not be consistently or correctly cited.		7.0 pts Below expectations Essay is incorrectly formatted (not double-spaced or missing a title) and further editing is needed as frequent errors are present. Sources are sporadically cited or not cited at all.		10.0 pts
SLO 2: Identify dynamics view longer description threshold: 3.0 pts	5.0 pts Exceeds Expectations		3.0 pts Meets Expectations		0.0 pts Does Not Meet Expectations		--
						Total Points: 90.0	