



**Department of Spanish Studies, General Linguistics and Literature Theory  
University of Alicante**

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*Undergraduate level*

## **LINGUISTICS 8806**

**Facilitator:** Irma M Muñoz Baell

### **Reading assignment 5**

**Academic year: 2009-2010**

#### **PART I. BEGINNING LINGUISTICS: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE**

**KEY TOPIC(S):**

- **The languages of the world.**

**DIRECTIONS**

Read carefully and critically the following two texts, **applying the points suggested in Reading assignment 1** before you come to the next class session. Everyone's participation in the group discussion can enrich our knowledge and understanding of issues pertaining to linguistics, so please get involved when we discuss these texts in class.

*Readings for the next class session*

ANDERSON, Stephen R.: *How Many Languages Are There in the World?* Washington DC: Linguistic Society of America. Available from: URL: [http://www.lsadc.org/info/pdf\\_files/howmany.pdf](http://www.lsadc.org/info/pdf_files/howmany.pdf).

CRYSTAL, David (1987): "World languages", *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 357-9.

**DO NOT FORGET...**

Before reading it...

- ask yourself what your **prior knowledge** of the subject was.
- ask yourself what **predictions** you made about what the text was about and what you would encounter next in the text.

As you read it...

- Mark the Thesis and Main Points of the Piece.
- Mark Key Terms and Unfamiliar Words.
- Underline Important Ideas and Memorable Images.
- Write Your Questions and/or Comments in the Margins of the Piece.
- Write any Personal Experience Related to the Piece.
- Mark Confusing Parts of the Piece, or Sections that Warrant a Reread.
- Underline the Sources, if any, the Author has Used.
- Summarizing.

After reading it...

- Briefly summarize the arguments and describe your opinions on and reactions to the issues introduced in the text.