



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

31710 GENERAL LINGUISTICS I

Degree in Catalan Studies – Degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies
Degree in English Studies – Degree in Spanish: Language and Literatures
Degree in French Studies
ECTS credits: 6 (150 hours)
Semester II (Group 4)
Facilitator: Irma M Muñoz Baell
Academic year: 2011-2012

theory sessions

Driving questions: IS IT EASY TO BE SYSTEMATIC AND OBJECTIVE ABOUT?
LANGUAGE STUDY

READING 3

CRYSTAL, David (1987): “The prescriptive tradition”, in *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of language*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; p. 2-5.

TBL-A3

TEAM BASED LEARNING ACTIVITY 3

Pair work activity

1. Give your **Reading Assignment 3 (RA3)** to a classmate and complete the **Student Peer Review Activity (SPR-A3)**. Then, discuss your responses to the questions asked with him/her (in particular, those where your responses differ greatly).

 **Today I am going to do the Team Based Learning Activity with:**

2. Working in pairs, answer the questions as stated below:

1. According to Crystal, ‘language belongs to everyone; so most people feel they have a right to hold an opinion about it. And when opinions differ, emotions can run high’. What are your thoughts in relation to this idea?



2. Give examples of polemic arguments people usually give on:

- language use
- major policies of linguistic planning
- education

Now, discuss 'tertiary responses' people usually give to these arguments:



3. Using Crystal's text as a guide, define the term *prescriptivism* using your own words:

4.- Discuss George Orwell's attempt to halt the decline in the language by following six basic rules.



5. Do you agree with the view expressed in the text that “grammarians should ‘discover’ and not ‘invent’ linguistic rules”? Remember that to give your opinion alone is not enough; you must back it up with some facts or evidence from the text you have just read.

6. Discuss how popular ideas about the existence of languages of excellence discussed in Reading 2 relate to issues discussed by the author in Reading 3.



7. Using Crystal's text as a guide, discuss your own views about the widely held belief that change necessary means deterioration and decay. Give examples or describe situations from your own personal experience.



FINAL REFLECTIVE QUESTION: WHAT DID WE LEARN THIS WEEK?

Give an answer, as comprehensive as possible, to the driving question for this week: Is it easy to be systematic and objective about language study?