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

KEY TOPIC(S):
- Examining popular ideas about language further.

PAIR ACTIVITY – For and Against
In this session we will be examining some popular ideas about language further. Working in pairs, choose one of the following statements:

Statement 1
Anyone who studies linguistics knows many languages.

Statement 2
The origins of language and how language first came about is well documented.

Statement 3
Parents teach their children language and teachers teach children how to speak correctly.

Are these statements true or false? Decide which side you would like to speak for and prepare a speech ‘for’ or ‘against’ the statement. One of you (student A) says why you agree with it and the other (student B) why he/she disagrees. Quickly write down as many points and examples for or against the argument as you can think of. Write in short note form and do not worry about the order you write them in.
Now, complete the task as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATEMENT:</th>
<th>Student A</th>
<th>Student B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Give reasons to show student B why the statement is true.</td>
<td>Give at least two examples to support your point of view.</td>
<td>Give reasons to show student A why the statement is false.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make notes for the opposing arguments. Consider them and then try and think what new points could be added to the argument on both sides. Write them down.

Report/Summarise the most important points raised in the debate back to the class, and then discuss why you think the above statements are true or false.