Task Sheet 11

Academic year: 2009-2010

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

KEY TOPIC(S):
- The languages of the world.

READING ASSIGNMENT 5
The purpose of this reading assignment is to help you to become more aware of the diversity of the world’s languages and varieties, and stimulate discussion about the phenomenon of language change and the international use of languages.

DISCUSSION AND DEBATE – For and Against

PART I - Decide which side you would like to speak for and prepare a talk ‘for’ or ‘against’ the following topics:

Topic 1: Linguistic diversity
Topic 2: English as a world language

First, read through these hints on how to prepare your talk:

1. Quickly write down as many points and examples for or against each topic as you can think of from this fifth reading assignment. Write in short note form and do not worry about the order you write them in.

2. Sort out what you have written under two or three headings. Here you could fill in a few details, but it is not necessary to write complete sentences.

PART II - GROUP DISCUSSION
Working in groups of seven or eight (for or against), read aloud and discuss your arguments amongst yourselves, then try and think what new points could be added to them (here you can give your personal opinion on the topics). Write them down.

PART III – CLASS DEBATE
Report/Summarise the most important points raised in the debate back to the class, and then discuss why you think your arguments are true or false from a linguistic point of view.