



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: HOW IS LANGUAGE STUDIED? WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT LANGUAGE IS STUDIED SCIENTIFICALLY?

READING 8

CRYSTAL, David (1987): “Obtaining linguistic data”, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 410-411.

TBL-A10

TEAM BASED LEARNING ACTIVITY 10

Pair work activity

1. Give your **Reading Assignment 8 (RA8)** to a classmate and complete the **Student Peer Review Activity (SPR-A10)**. 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 that follow.

1. According to Crystal, what procedures do linguists use when trying to obtain data about a language?



2. What is an *informant*? What factors must be considered when selecting informants?

3. What is the *observer's paradox* and how do linguists try to lessen its impact?

4. What does Crystal mean by the sentence 'Where possible, therefore, the recording has to be supplemented by the observer's notes about the non-verbal behaviour of the participants, and about the context in general'?



5. What does *elicitation* mean? How is it used in linguistics?

6. Define what a corpus is and explain why linguists use corpora.

7. Define, using your own words, what a 'standard' corpus is.



How many standard computer corpora are there in English linguistics? Describe them using your own words.

8. Why and when are *experimental techniques* used in linguistics?



9. Why and when is *reconstruction* used in linguistics?

10. Who is Randolph Quirk? What is the *Survey of English Usage*?

11. Write your reaction to the usefulness of this reading assignment. Also, comment on what you learned about modern linguistics as a result of this assessment.



FINAL REFLECTIVE QUESTION: WHAT DID WE LEARN THIS WEEK?

**Give an answer, as comprehensive as possible, to the driving question for this week:
How is language studied? What does it mean that language is studied scientifically?**