

## **Assessment #2: Linguistics Project<sup>1</sup>** **“Linguistic Analysis of a Speech Sample”**

[FLFR 481 / FLGE 481 / FLSP 481]

Obtain a speech sample of 5-10 minutes in length. You can ask for permission to digitally record a native speaker of the target language or obtain a sound file from an online database in the target language. If you conduct an interview, talk as little as possible and structure questions to elicit most of the sample from the interviewee so that you have a rich sample of speech to analyze. Asking the interviewee to discuss specific topics will result in a richer sample than if you were to ask a series of questions. You might ask your informant to talk about the following topics: his/her life as a child in his/her native country; the details of moving to the U.S.; what he/she recalls about coming to the U.S.; a description of his/her job/profession and interests; how often and where he/she speaks the native language; what he/she knows about varieties of his/her native language (i.e., dialectal differences); his/her experiences learning English.

After the interview or after selecting a speech sample, you will analyze the data and write a paper that presents your analysis of the recorded speech sample.

Include the following:

1. Transcription
  - a. Transcribe the speech sample in phonetic and graphemic form.
  - b. Submit the transcriptions as an appendix to the paper.
  
2. Analysis
  - a. Analysis of the speech sample
    - i. Describe at least two dialectal features of the speech sample, such as specific phonemes and/or allophones that are characteristic of a particular geographical region. Perhaps there are morphological or syntactic features that are distinctive as well.
    - ii. Describe and explain two pragmatic/sociolinguistic features of the speech sample, such as a politeness convention or a formal/informal form of address.
  - b. Compare the language of the speech sample with English. Select 2 of the following options:
    - i. Identify two phonemes from the speech sample that have similar phonemic and allophonic distributions with English. For each, explain the rules for the allophonic distribution and illustrate how they are similar to English.
    - ii. Identify two phonemes from the speech sample that have similar phonemic and allophonic distributions with English. For each, explain

---

<sup>1</sup> adapted from <http://www.cas.sc.edu/dllc/Geninfo/MAT/USC-UGTC-Handbook.pdf>

the rules for the allophonic distribution and illustrate how they are different from English.

- iii. Identify two syntactic patterns that are characteristic of the speech sample (e.g. questions formation). Contrast with typical syntactic patterns in English.
- iv. Tape yourself saying 3-5 sentences that the native speaker used, and contrastively analyze your speech and the native speaker's.

Your paper should be written in English, using an approved linguistics format (e.g. APA) and be 4-6 pages in length (12 point, double-spaced, 1 inch margins), excluding title page, transcriptions, and bibliography. Your paper will be evaluated using the rubric that appears on the next page.

## Assessment #2: Evaluation Rubric

	<b>Unacceptable</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>	<b>Target</b>
Phonetic transcription	There are many errors in the phonetic transcription, or it is incomplete.	Phonetic transcription is mostly thorough and accurate.	Phonetic transcription is thorough and accurate.
Graphemic transcription	Transcription is incomplete.	Transcription is complete.	Transcription is complete and detailed (e.g. pauses, overlap)
Dialect features (phonetic, morphologic, syntactic)	Analysis lacks sufficient detail, is at least partly inaccurate, or does not describe two features.	Analysis accurately describes the two features selected.	Analysis accurately describes the two features selected, provides a detailed analysis, and refers to other examples or references.
Dialect features (sociolinguistic, pragmatic)	Analysis lacks sufficient detail, is at least partly inaccurate, or does not describe two features.	Analysis accurately describes the two features selected.	Analysis accurately describes the two features selected, provides a detailed analysis, and refers to other examples or references.
Comparison with English	Analysis lacks sufficient detail, is at least partly inaccurate, or does not address two of the possible options for analysis.	Analysis accurately describes and compares two of the possible options.	Analysis accurately describes and compares two of the possible options, provides a detailed analysis, and refers to other examples or references.
Form and writing	Parts of the assignment are missing. Writing indicates many issues regarding grammaticality, coherence, or professionalism.	All parts of the assignment are included. Writing is mostly grammatical, coherent, and professional.	All parts of the assignment are included (i.e. Title page, Analysis, Transcriptions, Bibliography). Writing is grammatical, coherent, and professional.

## Assessment #2: Linguistics Evaluation Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_ Z# \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_

Class (please circle)    FLFR 481    FLGE 481    FLSP 481

Components	N/A	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Target
Phonetic transcription				
Graphemic transcription				
Dialect features (phonetic, morphologic, syntactic)				
Dialect features (sociolinguistic, pragmatic)				
Comparison with English				
Form and writing				

**Overall Evaluation:**

\_\_\_\_\_