

Individual project

Part I: Topic Selection and Bibliography

(Due: Tuesday, October 7, 2014)

The main goal of this assignment is to strengthen your skills as an independent researcher.

Specifically, the assignment will help you develop your ability to:

- define a research topic from a broad subject
- identify different sources of information and choose the most appropriate for the topic
- create a bibliography using a standard style (such as MLA or APA)

Requirements

The assignment consists of a 1-page document which includes:

- the research topic you've selected and your motivation for selecting the topic, and
- a bibliography with 5 appropriate sources for your topic

Formatting

- Main headings: CENTRED and BOLD (e.g. assignment title, your name)
- Sub-headings: LEFT-JUSTIFIED and BOLD (e.g. Topic Selection and Motivation, Bibliography)
- Bibliography and any in-text citations: must use a standard form/style (such as MLA or APA- choose a style and use it consistently)
- Throughout: 1" Margins; Times Roman, 12 point font; Line spacing at 1.5

Here are some examples of broad subject ideas (taken from the main course questions presented in Class 1) to guide your research and selection:

1. Language diversity (bilingualism, multilingualism)
2. Linguistic unity and the benefits of monolingualism
3. The confusion of tongues in contemporary novels (e.g. Umberto Eco, *The name of the rose*)
4. The linguistic sign: nature vs. convention
5. Linguistics and biology: biological evidence supporting/rejecting the monogenetic hypothesis
6. Linguistics and archeology: evidence supporting the existence of proto-languages.
7. Languages of commerce (lingua franca; creoles)
8. Linguistic regularities and anomalies (exceptions and variation).