

5SSEL026 Language Construction Assignment Project 1 – Language Report – specific marking criteria

Level	Demonstrated linguistic knowledge	Completeness of explanations	The distance of the created language from existing languages ¹	Novel constructions	Linguistic consistency ²	Plausibility of the language ³	Presentation	Clarity
A++ 90-100	Extensive understanding of grammar, syntax, lexis and cultural considerations.	All key linguistic phenomena are described in a clear and complete way. The what, how and why of each construction is shown fully.	The language shows considerable originality in type OR origin OR form OR usage OR socio-cultural features OR pragmatic features.	Considerable thought has been put into new ways of doing particular things with language, and viable solutions have been given.	The relationship between different components of the language has been clearly shown and the reasons for inconsistencies have been effectively argued.	The language has a strong identity which establishes its role and nature, and the report describes a convincing socio-cultural environment.	A pleasure to read. The author has demonstrated a clear understanding of the needs of their reader.	Ideas and arguments are presented in a clear and logical way that allow the reader to understand and appreciate the text with a single reading.
A+ 80-89	Good understanding of grammar, syntax and lexis, and of cultural considerations.	Important key linguistic phenomena are described in a clear and complete way. The what, how and why of each construction is shown fully.	The language is different from other languages in significant ways.	Considerable thought has been put into new ways of doing particular things with language.	The language has a story which explains its consistencies and inconsistencies in a clear and believable way.	The role of the language has been described fully, and its functional purpose has been realistically addressed.	The report is organised very effectively, with well-ordered topics, full referencing, and proper use made of appendices. Paragraphing, punctuation and lexis are correct.	Ideas and arguments are well-presented and compelling. The reader is able to understand the text without much re-reading.
A 70-79	Good understanding of the components of language and how they work together.	Explanations are mostly complete, clear and unambiguous. Most key topics covered.	The language has some features which are quite unlike those of other languages, or which contrast with those of other languages.	There are some important features of the language which are quite unusual.	Consistencies and inconsistencies in the language are discussed convincingly.	The language has an effective role and a functional purpose has been described.	The report is well-ordered and easy to follow. There are some minor issues concerning referencing, paragraphing, punctuation or lexis.	Ideas and arguments are well-presented and mostly compelling. The writer's intentions are clear to the reader.
B 60-69	Good understanding of the components of language; sufficient understanding of the nature and role of language.	Explanations are good, but EITHER some key linguistic phenomena are not addressed; OR the explanation given does not cover important features.	The language has been effectively differentiated from other languages, although there are no notably different key features.	There are some important features of the language which are unusual, but how they work is sometimes unclear.	Consistencies and inconsistencies are discussed adequately.	A complete and mostly convincing description of the role and function of the language has been provided.	Presentation is mostly effective and reader-aware, but some areas could be improved.	Ideas and arguments are well-presented. Arguments are clearly made, with few logical discontinuities.
C 50-59	Sufficient understanding of the components of language; sufficient understanding of the nature and role of language.	Sufficient information is given to enable the reader to understand the key features of the language effectively.	The language is like another language, but some thought of how it could be different has been demonstrated.	Novelty is limited, but the student has shown that they understand its role in language.	Some issues of consistency are discussed in a way that shows a clear understanding, but some are not addressed.	The description of the role and function of the language is sufficient but could have been fuller.	Presentation is good, but there is only occasional awareness that the report has a reader.	Ideas and arguments are presented competently. Argumentation has some logical discontinuities.
D 40-49	Sufficient understanding of the components of language.	A knowledge of how to explain linguistic phenomena is demonstrated.	The language is clearly based on another language, but it has some features which differentiate it sufficiently.	Nothing unusual demonstrated, but nothing unworkable included.	While the importance of consistency is recognised, there is little discussion of its role in this language.	The need for a role and function for the language has been recognised but the details are incomplete.	Adequate presentation, but information could have been presented in a better order.	Mostly clear enough to be read and understood, but excess complexity in some places creates ambiguity.
F 33-39	Insufficient understanding of the components of language; OR insufficient understanding of the nature and role of language.	Limited indication that the student understands the linguistic phenomena they are describing.	The language is an existing language with different lexis.	The language has unworkable constructions.	Incomplete understanding of why languages have consistencies and inconsistencies.	The language has an unconvincing and inadequate back story.	There are issues with the organisation of the report, creating discontinuities in the presentation of information.	Key parts of the report are difficult to interpret.
FF 0-32	Understanding of the nature of language is not demonstrated.	Explanations are ineffective or missing.	The language is not complete enough to judge whether it is like another language or not.	The language is unworkable.	Little understanding of why languages have consistencies and inconsistencies.	The role and function of the language have not been addressed.	Serious organisational problems which make it difficult or impossible to understand.	Difficult to read, and in large part incomprehensible.

¹ If the language is clearly intended to be a variant of an existing language, this will be taken into account when marking this criterion.

² Linguistic consistency is judged by: how the grammatical functions work together; whether the syntax works in a unified way; the phonological system; the language structure; and its socio-cultural and pragmatic functionality.

³ "Plausibility" does not mean that the language has a role in the actual modern world, but that a plausible story of its role (real or fictional) has been given.