Marking Mandubza

The sample language description provided for this module (see **L0 – sample assignments language construction p1.pdf**) is not perfect. It was written in a rush, as if all the work had been done over the Christmas break, fitted between mince pie and sausage roll sessions.

Now it's your turn to take it apart. Be ruthless.
- What do you think is good about the report?
- What is not so good?
- Could more use have been made of appendices (which are outside word count)?
- Is the language credible?
- Is it easy? Maybe too easy? Maybe too hard?
- Is it a good translation?
- What else raises your ire?

Remember the instructions in the module guide. Marks will be on the report for:
- Demonstrated linguistic knowledge
- Completeness of explanations
- The distance of the created language from existing languages
- Novel constructions
- Linguistic consistency
- Plausibility of the language
- Presentation
- Clarity

And on the translation for:
- Choice of text to be translated
- Effective transliteration from the text to an interlanguage form
- Intelligent choices in metaphorical and non-literal translations
- Faithfulness to the logic and culture of your language

Some final thoughts on what to include in your language report

Linguistic features that you should consider when designing your language include (but are not limited to):
- Should the language be predominantly agglutinative, fusional or isolating, or should it include features from two or more of these categories?
- Is it a spoken language? If so, does it have a rich or restricted set of sounds?
- How should time be handled in your language? Do verbs have tenses, or is time indicated by adverbs, or by some other method? If tenses are used, which tenses are represented?
- How is space represented in your language? Does it have relative or absolute reference?
- How is modality handled?
- Does the language have complex constructions, such as a passive voice? How are the complex constructions represented?
- Can verbs have missing subjects (a type of passive) or missing objects (intransitives)?
- What pronouns does the language use?
- Are there plurals, or is everything counted? Are there non-count nouns (like sand, or happiness)?
- Does the language have noun gender, and how does it work?
- How is adpositional functionality handled? Is there a system of verb inflections, separate words or morphemes, noun affixes, or is it adjectival?
- Are there separate adjectives, or are noun affixes used? Is it a mixed system?
- Are there separate adverbs, or are verb affixes used? Is it a mixed system?
- How are different classes of word identified?
- Are there limits to the complexity of constructions that the language can create (e.g. how many indirect objects are allowed)?
- Are there constructions with particular significance, such as a different order for questions?