

Avoid Plagiarism while paraphrasing others' work¹

- Cite the author
- Don't imitate the structure of the original
- Use quotation marks the one phrase taken word-for-word from the original

Linguistic theory is concerned primarily with an ideal speaker-listener, in a completely homogeneous speech-community, who knows its language perfectly and is unaffected by such grammatically irrelevant conditions as memory limitations, distractions, shifts of attention and interest, and errors (random or characteristic) in applying his knowledge of the language in actual performance. This seems to me to have been the position of the founders of modern general linguistics, and no cogent reason for modifying it has been offered.

Figure 3.1. Original Text

Linguistic theory is concerned with an ideal speaker-hearer, who lives in a completely homogeneous speech community. This person speaks his language perfectly and doesn't notice things like errors, changes in attention and interest, memory limitations, or distractions when using his knowledge of the language in everyday performance. This was the position of the founders of modern general linguistics.

Figure 3.2. Word-for-Word Plagiarism

Chomsky (1965:3-4) claims that the founders of modern linguistics believed that linguistics deals with an ideal speaker-listener, and that we should still believe that today. The idealization means that the speaker speaks its language perfectly, without any distractions from performance factors such as mistakes, a faulty memory, changes in attention and interest, etc.

Figure 3.3. Mosaic Plagiarism

Chomsky (1965:3-4) claims that the field of linguistics has long operated with the notion of an "ideal speaker-listener," and says that he sees no reason to reject this position today. The notion of the "ideal speaker-listener" is exactly that—an idealization—that is, someone who has perfect competence in their language, and for whom performance factors play no role.

Figure 3.4. Adequate Paraphrase

¹ Adopted from Macaulay (2006: 37-38), *Surviving Linguistics: A Guide for Graduate Students*.