

Please think over the following statements/ questions and write down your thoughts on some of the statements. It would be helpful to include some examples to support your arguments (including examples from your own experience).

You may search for articles and try to find supporting arguments but please properly cite any reference you consulted with.

Please consult Syllabus for the requirements on "Class Reflection and Reading Responses".

L1 acquisition, L2 acquisition

1. How much of language is “innate”? Nature? Or Nurture?
2. Is there a universal grammar?
3. What happens to a child who is not exposed to language until very late? (you may google "feral children" cases)
4. What does it count as a success on L2 acquisition?
5. Can second language learners succeed at learning a second language after puberty?
6. Does there exist a critical period for language acquisition in general?
7. What is the role of L1 in L2 acquisition/ L3 acquisition? Check out learner corpora (such as, <https://uclouvain.be/en/research-institutes/ilc/cecl/learner-corpora-around-the-world.html>), try to find out some examples on errors made by L2 learners and try to figure out to what extent these errors actually arise from “transfer” from the L1.
8. What L2s have you tried to learn? If you studied the language in a class, what teaching techniques were used? Were they helpful? How well did you succeed (or not) and why? How is your experience illuminated (or not) by what we learned in the LING 3100 class?
9. What kind of ethical matters we should keep in mind when we study L1 acquisition and/or L2 acquisition?

Bilingualism and language education

10. Learning more than one language confuses a child and lowers his/her IQ.
11. Bilingualism in childhood brings cognitive disadvantages.
12. Bilingual children lag behind their monolingual peers in schools.
13. A child should learn one language properly before learning a second one.
14. Bilingual children cannot learn the two languages completely.
15. A person cannot be a real bilingual if he learns a second language late.
16. Bilinguals translate from their weaker to their stronger language.
17. Bilingual children are confused: they often mix the two languages.
18. Learning two languages may cause cultural identity problems for a child.

19. Bilingual kids (kids who grew up in a bilingual household or gets exposed to more than one language at the same time) start to talk at a later age than monolingual kids ((kids who grew up in a monolingual household or gets exposed to only one language) .
20. We should promote additive bilingualism for English-dominant speakers and subtractive bilingualism for language minorities.
21. We should teach students who speak minoritized varieties to learn Standardized American English at school in the states.
22. Language educators and school districts should provide equal opportunities to all linguistically and culturally diverse students, such as, offer language classes in the language(s) that some student speak or want to acquire.
23. Language teachers should not only be teaching languages, but also being a communicator, an educator, an evaluator, an educated human being as well as an agent of socialization (see more at [Fillmore and Snow 2000](#))
24. You didn't learn your first language(s) by sitting in a classroom and memorizing grammar, so taking language classes are neither needed nor efficient to learn new languages.
25. Smartphone apps are revolutionizing language education, in-person language classes and language teachers may be replaced by virtual language classes and artificial intelligence in the future.

Language and Law

26. What are the benefits of using linguistic analyses as evidence in legal cases?
27. What are the concerns of using linguistic analyses as evidence in legal cases?
28. For a legal case, is it relevant that things are changed today than they were at the time a law code was written?
29. Do you think one's interpretation of a law code may be influenced by one's own beliefs about the normative value of enforcing the relevant laws?
30. Please check *Smith v. United States* (1993), then talk about your opinions on this the sentencing of Smith.
31. Can we rely on language corpus and/or Google search and/or dictionary definitions to interpret a law code? Or can we (and/or judges) use language corpus and/or Google search and/or dictionary definitions as a tool to interpret a law code?
32. Why do many people who heard of Miranda rights but still answer questions without an attorney present?
33. Why do many people who know that the legal system only legitimizes requests/ refusals when made directly but still do not make requests/ refusals directly and explicitly?
34. How do you think lawmakers, policymakers, linguists, teachers and the society should do more to ensure justices for underprivileged persons?

Language and Politics/Power, Language and Gender

35. George Lakoff argues that "When you negate the frame, you activate the frame" What do you think?
36. Why do politicians use negative campaigns especially attack type of negative campaigns?
37. What are the risks and consequences of using negative campaigns?
38. Should negative campaigns including slurs be regulated by a third-party when they are used in political campaigns? If so, what kind of language-related regulations should be implemented? Who would be an ideal candidate to implement such regulations?
39. Do you agree with the statement that "Words are the currency of power in elections" ?
40. Acton and Potts (2014) argue that use of demonstratives contributed to the polarized reaction to U.S. politician and public figure Sarah Palin's speech. What do you think?
41. It has been proposed that gender is a social construction. How are gender-specific communication patterns established through childhood socialization? Provide some examples if you can.
42. Language use are gendered according to topic and context although in general speaking styles do not vary significantly according to gender. (check out Shankar 2008 and related papers if you'd like).
43. Many languages have gender-based distinctions. With gendered languages, one has to think of gender or be more aware of gender while conjugating a verb or using a noun. Do you think these gendered linguistic forms would be more likely to influence speakers' thoughts and opinions about sexes, gender equality?

Language and Medicine

44. What are the linguistic related barriers to good provider-patient communication? How would you propose to address these barriers properly?
45. If a professional medical language interpreter was hired for clinic visits and some misunderstandings between the doctors and patients happened, should the medical language interpreter take the responsibility for the misunderstandings and related costs?
46. Standardized tests of current language performance are often used as one of the evaluation tools for the diagnosis of speech and language disorders in children. Are there any limits on this evaluation tool?
47. What are the benefits and concerns about using language technology such as translations apps or virtual assistants to facilitate provider-patient communication?
48. Language disorders often negatively affect spoken proficiency, but not writing proficiency.
49. Specific Language Impairment is a kind of developmental disorder that, as children develop, they grow out of the problem. So no need to get children attend speech language therapy.

50. Bilingual kids have higher risks of speech language disorders as they may get confused by multiple language input and often start to talk at a later age than monolingual kids.

Language and Technology

51. Why are chatbots of practical interest for businesses?
52. Why is dialogue system a hard problem in natural language processing?
53. Give a succinct explanation as to why the following argument is flawed:
- a. "Computers can write poems like humans, so they have truly mastered language."
54. Name an artificial intelligence (AI) figure you saw in the movies and do you think we will eventually have that kind of AI products in our daily life?
55. In what situations do you think machine translations do a good job? In what situations do you think machine translations does do well? What are the barriers for the advance of machine translations?
56. Will machine translation replace human translators some day in the future?
57. How linguistic study can be useful in advancing language technology?

Language and name, Language and food

58. Share a story about how a personal/ place name that you know was chosen or created. What is the meaning of the name? Are there any sound related concerns that were taken into consideration when choosing/ creating the name?
59. Which names become popular thanks to literature? If you were to choose a name for a character in a fiction or for a virtual assistant, which name will you give? Why?
60. In a language that you know, what are the vocabulary used for expressing seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, or feeling? Does the language have more words for a certain sense like seeing (including shapes, color), but have less words for other senses like smelling?
61. Share a story about a name of a dish on a menu that left you deep impression. Why is the name special and memorable?
62. Do some research on how famous/ popular dishes got their famous/popular names (it can be American dishes or non-American dishes). Shall your findings with the group.