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LING 2000

10-10

- a. Adjectives are extremely common compared to conversation. Every other category seems to be drowned out by the adjectives.
- b. A list of adjectives forms a sentence. This list of adjectives may be followed by a noun, but no verb. Such sentences describe the writer of the ad (except in case (1) where “You:” is used to list desired adjectives of the reader). The writer speaks about himself in the third person. In sentences where the writer is the subject, the subject is left out. In such sentences where the verb is in the progressive form, the auxiliary “is” is also left out (eg. “Seeking counterpart, ...”). Most ads include an acronym of the form [SG][WDB][MF], where the letters stand for Straight, Gay, White, Dark?, Black, Male, Female respectively. Most verbs are in the third person singular.
- c. Seeks (third-person singular), respects (TPS), lives (TPS), works (TPS), enjoys (TPS), seeking (TPS?), likes (TPS), looking (TPS?).
- d. *He is a slim, young gay white male who has a very straight appearance, is masculine, athletic, healthy, clean-shaven, and discreet. He seeks a similar good-looking white male who is under 25 for a monogamous relationship.*
- e. It was possible to fill in words to make this essentially conversational English, as long as it is in the third person.
- f. The acronyms GWM, DF, etc. Abbreviations such as n/s.

11-1

Most of the time, a dialect is defined to be a mutually intelligible form of a language. That is, two people who speak different dialects of the same language can understand each other, whereas they can't if they speak two

different languages. However, politics sometimes gets in the way of this definition, so there are some exceptions.

To say that something is *only* a dialect, you'd have to be talking in terms of some language. Something can not be a dialect without being a member of a language.

11-8

Women generally do not swear as much, and when they do the swearing forms are usually more mild (more generally socially acceptable) than when men swear. Women tend to use longer, more polite greetings; eg. "Hi, how are you?" rather than "Hey." This is a result of the social pressure on women to be polite and nice, where this pressure generally is not present for men.