Individual Study Project: Constructing Communities

The Task

Present a text-based application of the content of the seminar and/or of the reading matter presented in tandem with it in a format that will be detailed below.
Please read the following instructions carefully and act on them. Failure to observe the guidelines will not result in an increased grade…

The Data

Focus on a community and its way of constructing itself linguistically. Isolate the linguistic features or strategies that are typical for the community in question. Determine what data would be of interest and how these could be gathered.
Keep a diary of how you are collecting the data (useful for the methodology section of your Study Project).

The Format

There are two basic possibilities to complete this assignment for a graded seminar: either a normal seminar paper or a pod/screencast. Both can use the same material and essentially deal with them using the same strategies. However, the overall direction would be slightly different, more academic in the first and more didactic in the second format.

Possibility 1: A seminar paper

This would need to be between 4000 to 6000 words. Apart from the content, your discussion, it would have to include the data in the form of a transcript or a copy of a (printed) text if that is what you are using, which highlights the salient points in an appendix, as well as a complete reference section that should include printed sources apart from internet sites. Neither appendix or reference section will add to the word count.
This approach would be mainly focused on academic writing practices with the paper making a clear point to add to the understanding of the text, considered choices of analysis and their suitability for what you are trying to show, a clear argumentation and an apt conclusion (If this reminds you of Writing Skills, well yes, that's what we are on about). These points will be the criteria for assessment.
This paper would need to correspond to the linguistics stylesheet and be handed in in paper format by **10 July 2019**, earlier if you need to have a mark before the beginning of the Spring Term.

Possibility 2: A Screencast

This would be in the form of an WMV, Quicktime or Flash Movie or an m4v/mpeg, based on a narrated and suitably animated Powerpoint, Keynote or Prezi presentation. The aim here would be equally on a clear line of argumentation and suitable approaches but with a focus on a didactically apt concept and a suitable means to bring out the points that you want your views to be aware of.

If you prefer this option, here are the links to a few introductory tutorials. The trouble with many of the ones I have found is that some are between four and six years old. This may be be because new versions of Powerpoint can actually deliver much of what is discussed in the tutorials quite well. The one problem is that there is little to know way of monitoring the narration and its sound quality and no obvious possibilities to edit the sound track once it is recorded.

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkoAj-9R5gA (it gets interesting after 1:50, but before this it is informative too; in particular the strategy for good sound quality is easy but highly effective).
- Part I: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DAcB969u64 and Part 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHoTAzYh5E8 (These two are also useful for information about how to polish the sound quality)
- http://www.ehow.com/how_6504656_create-podcast-powerpoint.html
- http://academic.cuesta.edu/training/training_materials/enhanced_podcast_ppt_Mac.pdf
- http://www.powertolearn.com/articles/teaching_with_technology/article.shtml?ID=79
- http://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/23things/tag/presentations-and-podcasts (this seems relatively up to date and quite sophisticated).

Alternatively you can use the inbuilt feature on Powerpoint of recording a narration (but the issue raised in the first clip above holds: it won't work without a script and very detailed knowledge of the Powerpoint slide and its animations!) and then use the "Save as" feature to create a film of the narrated presentation. You can further edit the podcast afterwards, in Windows in Movie Maker, on Mac with I-Movie and Garageband.

The assessment will be on the aptness of the means used, both in terms of the accuracy of you analysis, as well as presentation and the way in which the materials are made accessible to the viewer. Here too a bibliography will be required that covers print as well as electronic sources.

This work can be uploaded on a private youtube channel (see link How to Do Podcasts), or handed in on a storage medium like an SD card, a memory stick or a CD, the deadline being **10 July 2019** for this one as well.

If you have any questions, please get in touch by email.