

Paper #1: Whorfian Hypothesis

Due: Friday, April 15, 11pm – submit electronically on Canvas

Purpose:

For this assignment, you will explain, illustrate, and take a position on a central but contested concept in linguistics: the Whorfian hypothesis. You will develop your ability to parse multiple strands of a nuanced academic debate, as well as your skills for taking a well-reasoned position within this debate.

Your paper should be no less than 1000 words (excluding references), but not much longer. It should contain the following elements:

- 1) **Define the Whorfian hypothesis**
- 2) **Differences between versions** – Explain how different authors’ articulations of this hypothesis vary
- 3) **Describe more than one position** – Outline at least two positions on this hypothesis, including the evidence the authors use to substantiate their position
- 4) **Take a position** – Make a case for which position you find most compelling and why
- 5) **Illustrate with examples** – Include examples of specific linguistic phenomena
- 6) **References** – Include the sources you consulted for this paper. These should be formatted in a bibliography according to the Chicago Manual of Style (see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html) or MLA (see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>)
- 7) **Format** – Microsoft Word doc or docx. Please give your background research paper a descriptive title.

Evaluation: Your paper will be evaluated according to the rubric below.

Paper #1 Rubric											
Paper Section & Criteria:	Scale (points):										
Defines Whorfian hypothesis	20	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Succinctly and accurately defines the Whorfian hypothesis Accurately describes differences between versions 	Meets most criteria at a high level			Meets some criteria, may be somewhat unclear or uneven				Meets few criteria, unclear and undeveloped			
Describes Multiple Positions	20	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurately describes at least two positions on the Whorfian hypothesis Presents evidence utilized to substantiate these positions 	Meets most criteria at a high level			Meets some criteria, may be somewhat unclear or uneven				Meets few criteria, unclear and undeveloped			
Takes a position	20	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takes a clearly stated position on the Whorfian hypothesis Describes why this position is most compelling 	Meets most criteria at a high level			Meets some criteria, may be somewhat unclear or uneven				Meets few criteria, unclear and undeveloped			
Illustrative examples	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> References specific linguistic phenomena to illustrate argument 	Meets most criteria at a high level			Meets some criteria, may be somewhat unclear or uneven				Meets few criteria, unclear and undeveloped			
References	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> References sources consulted Utilizes proper formatting for references 	Meets most criteria at a high level			Meets some criteria, may be somewhat unclear or uneven				Meets few criteria, unclear and undeveloped			
Overall clarity of writing	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is clear and well-written in an engaging tone. Avoids errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation and shows evidence of proofreading 	Meets most criteria at a high level			Meets some criteria, may be somewhat unclear or uneven				Meets few criteria, many errors.			
Overall effectiveness of paper	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaves the reader feeling knowledgeable about the writer's subject 	Meets most criteria at a high level			Good potential but some revision or editing still needed				Substantial editing and revision needed			