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Introduction to Corpus Linguistics

Spring 2018

Assignments

Assignment 1

Winter Reading Project – Due week 2 (March 9)

Write a reaction paper to the winter reading text – Aitchison (2012). This will also lead into the second assignment.

Assignment 2

The Nature of Vocabulary – Due week 4 (March 23)

Write up a short paper about the nature of vocabulary. This should include your feelings of what vocabulary is, how it works in general and how we might then teach it. This is a general paper where students, using what they have read for the class, reflect on how they can assimilate this new information into their teaching repertoire.

Assignment 3

Lexis Notebooks - Due week 6 (April 6)

This paper should be a reaction paper to the lexis notebooks assignment that students did over the previous two weeks. Students are expected to reflect on the underlying principles, the process, and the outcomes of such a project. Using their own brief experience as a guide they are to elaborate on the possibilities of doing such a project in their own classroom offering suggestions for changes in the guidelines of the project as well as projecting outcomes.

Assignment 4

Using Word Associations – Due week 8 (April 20)

Students will design a very short research project (partially in class) using word associations as a means of eliciting information about their own students’ mental lexicons. They will conduct the research as best they can and write up the results in a short paper (essentially this is an abbreviated research report).

Assignment 5

Corpora/Design and Use – Due week 10 (May 4)

Like assignment 2, this assignment is somewhat introductory in nature. It asks students to first introduce what they believe corpora to be and then asks them to explain how corpora can be used for effect in their classroom. Students need to cite specific examples (this means exercises, activities, and tasks) of how they think they can, have or will use corpora in the classroom.

Assignment 6

Grammar and Vocabulary – Due week 12 (May 18)

For this assignment students are to put to paper their reflections of the relationship between grammar and vocabulary as the issue has been covered in the class. They are then to elaborate on ways in which they can take advantage of this relationship in the classroom for more effective language teaching/learning. As in assignment 5, they are expected to devise some specific examples demonstrating their suggestions for classroom applications/uses.

Assignment 7

Relational Language/Linking language – Due week 14 (June 1)

In this assignment student need to write a short paper on the importance of relational language in overall language development. They then need to explain how relational language can be taught focusing on different skill areas (speaking, reading, writing, listening).

Assignment 8 – Final Project

– Due at the symposium (June 16)

For the final assignment, the students are to choose one of the short assignments that they had written previously and extend it into a longer, better-developed paper. The student her or himself should decide the way in which the original will be extended. Extensions would typically fall into the normalized set of options for projects in my classes (theoretical review – research – pedagogical application). More details will come during the course.