

**Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici  
Corso di laurea triennale in Lingue e Culture  
dell'Asia e dell'Africa**

**Lingua e traduzione inglese-seconda annualità  
a.a. 2022-23**

**Writing a research paper**

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Reference text:

Oshima, Alice, and Ann Hogue, 2006, *Writing Academic English*. New York: Pearson Longman.

Attending students will be preparing (and presenting in class at the end of the course) a written assignment (paper), which focuses on the linguistic/stylistic analysis of an extended text (**about 600-800 words**), from a non-literary source (e.g. a passage from a political speech, some examples of advertising, an extract from a film script, etc.) or a literary source (an extract from a novel, a play or a short story, or a long poem). The source text must be originally written in English (i.e. you should not work on a translated text) and must be attached to the paper in an appendix.

**All papers must be sent in by email by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (Word format).**

**Papers sent after this date will not be considered for assessment.**

**NB: if you need to take the exam in February 2023, you must send in your paper by the end of January 2023.**

You can work individually or in a group of maximum 5 students and you can send your paper in Word format (not PDF) by email.

If you work individually, you have to save your work in this way: SURNAME\_BRIEF TITLE\_2022, example: SMITH\_LANGUAGE OF MUSEUMS\_2022.

If you work in a group, you have to save your work in this way: BRIEF TITLE\_21-22, e.g. STYLE IN INDIAN ENGLISH NEW COMICS\_2022.

**All papers who have not been saved in this way will not be considered for assessment.**

**NB:** this part (presentation in class and written paper) will be in lieu of the written exam **ONLY** for students with a regular attendance (i.e. 75% of the entire length of the course). Your paper will be assessed and will count towards the final examination mark.

### Paper: Text Analysis:

Use appropriate academic English for your paper (e.g. do not use short forms, do not use 'a lot of/lots' or but 'much/many', etc.) as well as appropriate descriptive terminology; follow this style-sheet for editorial aspects.

In your paper, you have to:

- a) briefly introduce the author of the text or the type of text you wish to analyse as well as the purpose of your work (research questions: i.e. what do you want to do with your text? What do you want to investigate? What do you want to show? Etc.)
- b) briefly illustrate the methodology you have chosen
- c) provide a stylistic analysis of the passage you have selected (do not simply comment on the linguistic devices used in the text) – you have to use appropriate bibliographical references (other than the materials included in the lecture notes)
- d) draw some critical conclusions and highlight the importance/usefulness of literary linguistics/stylistics

**PLAGIARISM WARNING:** do NOT copy directly from published sources or the internet! Always quote with "..." and a clear reference from original sources and/or elaborate others' works and essays. **ALL papers evidently copied and/or downloaded from the internet or other sources will be FAILED.**

### Formatting rules (MLA style)

There are many types of style sheet acceptable for academic writing in English, but the fundamental thing is that you have to be consistent and follow the rules throughout the paper. The most used style sheet in the humanities is MLA (Modern Language Association) and use the 'author-date' method of citation rather than footnotes.

Both American and British spellings are accepted, but there must be uniformity of usage within in your paper.

Length of paper: 7-10 pages A4 sheet (no less than 3,000-3,500 words), bibliography and cover page excluded, appendix (original documents, maps, pictures, etc.).

You can use different types of font (e.g. Corbel, Georgia or Arial), 12 points, line space 1.5, standard Word margins. The entire text must be justified with the exception of the titles, which should be centred. A cover page should include the following:

- name of the university
- department
- degree programme
- course
- your personal details, including mail address
- title of your paper.

In case you present/prepare your paper in a group, all the people of the team must include such information.

Number all pages after the title page, starting with your first text page as page 1. Place the page number in the footer section of the page, centred.

Quotations of 60 words or longer should be set off from the main text by being preceded and followed by a space, single-line spaced, and justified. The first line is not indented. Quotations running less than 60 words

should be in double inverted commas and incorporated in the main text with in-text citation; quotations within such quotations should be in single inverted commas.

Use in-text citation to refer the reader to the works listed in your references at the end of your paper. Place in-text citations immediately after the borrowed information in this way: (Surname date: pp). In the case of a book with three or more authors, you can use the abbreviation *et alii* after the first surname. Examples:

In cognitive linguistics, a principle of prototypicality also applies to the articulation of sounds (Stockwell 2009: 59).

These lines also use a form of sound patterning called assonance – the repetition of vowels (Carter *et alii* 2001: 65).

According to Gavins (2010: 109), “the creation of imaginary states of affairs is not confined to literary fiction alone”.

Footnotes should be avoided or kept to a minimum; each footnote should be no longer than 50 words. As far as possible, authors should integrate into the text remarks made as notes, using footnotes for extra information only.

Use a formal register with appropriate descriptive linguistic terminology and avoid colloquial forms/contracted forms/casual punctuation. Your text has to be organised in paragraphs.

### How to find information and sources:

Find original material, surf the net, look for bibliographical references on your topic. For general background information, check out general information online about the chosen topic. Use Search Engines as a starting point, in particular the Search Engine ‘Tutto’, which is offered by the University of Turin.

Be selective of websites and choose scientifically valid sites rather than informative pages. Make yourself familiar with the bibliographical resources in the Unito libraries, in particular the Oriental Studies library and the Foreign Languages library. Try to use also journals, electronic resources, web-based information services, materials on CDs, and so on. Online reference materials (including databases): read and evaluate. Bookmark your favourite internet sites. Print out, photocopy and take notes of relevant information. As you gather your resources, write full bibliographical information (author, title, place of publication, publisher, date of publication, page number, etc.).

Remember that an article or other type of material without bibliographical information cannot be used in the paper.

### Signposting

In academic writing, the author is responsible for making the text as clear as possible for the reader. This requires the writing to be explicit, in other words, to anticipate and address the reader’s questions. An active reader will want to know what the author’s aims are and how these will be achieved; what the author’s position is about key issues; how the argument is constructed; how ideas relate to each other.

Good writers use signposting language to signal to the reader where these answers can be found.

It is useful to divide signposting language into two broad categories:

- **major signposts** that signal key aspects of the work, such as purpose, structure, author’s stance, main points, direction of the argument, conclusions.
- **linking words and phrases** that show connections between sentences and paragraphs.

### Examples of major signposts:

- The aim of this study is to ....
- The purpose of this thesis is to....
- This essay argues that ....

- The main questions addressed in this paper are ....
- This essay critically examines....
- The above discussion raises some interesting questions.
- This paper begins by .... It will then go on to .... Finally, ....
- This chapter reviews the literature of ....
- In conclusion, ....

#### Examples of linking words and phrases:

- **Listing:**  
first(ly), ... / second(ly), ... / finally, ... /
- **Indicating addition or similarity:**  
also, ... / besides, ... / in addition, ... / furthermore, ... / as well / similarly, ...
- **Indicating contrast:**  
however, ... / nevertheless, ... / on the other hand, ... /
- **Giving a reason:**  
for this reason, ... / because ... / because of ... / due to ...
- **Indicating result:**  
therefore, ... / thus, ... / as a result, ... / consequently, ...
- **Reformulating an idea:**  
in other words, ... / to put it simply, ... / that is ...
- **Exemplifying:**  
for example, ... / for instance, ... / to exemplify, ...

**ALL PAPERS THAT DO NOT FOLLOW THESE  
GUIDELINES WILL NOT BE ASSESSED AND WILL HAVE  
TO BE THOROUGHLY REVISED AND RE-SUBMITTED**

#### References

##### Volume by a single author:

Surname, Name. year. *Title*. city: publishing house.

Fowler, Roger. 1996. *Linguistic Criticism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

N.B.: In the case of more works by the same author, the name of the author is repeated. In the case of works of the same author and year, the date is followed by a letter in alphabetical order. Example:

Jeffries, Lesley. 2010a. *Opposition in Discourse*. London: Continuum.

Jeffries, Lesley. 2010b. *Critical Stylistics*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

##### Volume by two or more authors:

Surname, Name, and Name Surname. year. *Title*. city: publishing house.

Jeffries, Lesley, and Dan McIntyre. 2010. *Stylistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Edited volume:**

Surname, Name, ed. year. *Title of the Book*. City: publishing house.

McKeon, Malcolm, ed. 2000. *Theory of the Novel*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.

(use eds. in case of more than one editor)

Paul, Simpson, and Andrea Mayr, eds. 2010. *Language and Power*. London: Routledge.

**Essay in volume edited by another author/other authors:**

Surname, Name. year. "Title of essay". In Name Surname. ed. *Title of volume*. city, publishing house, pp.

Roth, Ian. 2008. "Imagination and the awareness of self in autistic spectrum poets". In Michael Osteen. ed. *Autism and Representation*. New York: Routledge, 145-65.

Surname, Name. year. "Title of essay". In Name Surname and Name Surname, eds, *Title of volume*. city, publishing house, x-y.

Douthwaite, John. 2007. "A stylistic view of modality". In Giuliana Garzone and Rita Salvi, eds, *Linguistica, linguaggi specialistici, didattica delle lingue*. Rome: CISU, 207-231.

**Article in journal:**

Surname, Name. year. "Title of article". *Journal Title*, number: volume: pp.

Palmer, Alan. 2002. "The construction of fictional minds", *Narrative*, 10.1: 28-46.

**Websites:**

Website name: www.xxyyyy.xx (accessed dd.mm.yyyy)

PALA Poetics And Linguistics Associations: <http://www.pala.ac.uk/> (accessed 10.09.22)