

Spring 2021

Pandemic Pandemonium Project

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Pandemic Pandemonium - Spring 2021

Student Winner based on Assignment

Faculty Name:	Reiko Kataoka
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Email:	reiko.kataoka@sjsu.edu
Semester taught assignment:	Fall 2020
Course Title:	Linguistics 101 – Introduction to Linguistics
Assignment Title:	Pandemic Pandemonium Project
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Pandemic Pandemonium Project

Learning outcome

This assignment is designed to help you achieve Course Learning Outcome #6 “Develop an evidence-based argumentation on interaction of language, people, and society” as well as develop skills to conduct online research, collaborate with your classmates, and deliver an oral presentation with slides.

Description

Language and its use are deeply intertwined with society and its members. In this assignment, you will work with two or three other members to explore a topic such as (1) how language reflects the ideas, values, and attitudes of members of society, (2) what new words or phrases were created in this time of drastic social change, (3) how some jargons (e.g., medical jargons) have become popular terms, or (4) how existing words and phrases have adopted new meanings. Your group will collect data and develop a short (12-14 min.) presentation using Google slides. To earn full credit, your group must follow all steps described in “Steps” below.

Steps

1. Preparation: Study the following materials in Canvas and engage in in-class discussions
 - a. Video [“Words matter: How we talk about the pandemic”](#) by Tannen.
 - b. Article [“Essential Vocab For COVID-19: From Asymptomatic to Zoonotic”](#) by Huang, Gharib, and Jacewicz.
2. Getting organized: Brainstorm and select the topic for your group. Confirm key concepts from the textbook chapter.
3. Research and Data collection:
 - a. All groups will do background research on expert views on the topic from the video/online/print sources.
 - b. Each group will collect topic-specific data (see “Suggested data for your topic” below).
4. Discuss in your group: (1) what generalization(s) can be drawn from the data, and (2) what is the social and/or linguistic significance of the obtained generalization.

5. Create a 12-14 min. presentation with Google slides, including: (1) topic and background, (2) methods (database, survey, interview, etc.), (3) general patterns observed in the data with a few examples, and (4) discussion and conclusion.
6. Write a script for your presentation (300-350 words per person for a 3-min. speech).
7. Rehearse a presentation as a group (e.g., in Zoom).
8. In-class presentation with a Q-A session using Zoom screen share.

Suggested data for your topic

- Frequencies of usage of linguistic expressions ([Google N-gram viewer](#); [Google trends](#)).
- Sentences that illustrate a particular metaphor (or cognitive frame).
- Etymology.
- Previous and new usage of existing words/phrases with illustrative sample sentences.
- Examples of newly created linguistic expressions in social media.

References

Georgetown University Press. (2020, June 5). ‘*Words matter: How we talk about the pandemic*’ with Professor Deborah Tannen. [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqA_qo669G4

Huang, P., Gharib, M., and Jacewicz, N. (2020, June 27). Essential Vocab For COVID-19: From Asymptomatic to Zoonotic. Retrieved from <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/06/27/883975628/essential-vocab-for-covid-19-from-asymptomatic-to-zoonotic>

Grading Criteria (Max 10 points)

Each item is evaluated at the 3-points scale:

(1.0 = Full Marks; 0.7 = Meets Expectations; 0 = Missing/Does Not Meet Expectations)

Category		Max point
Group points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coherence – Ideas flow smoothly and connects logically – 1 pt • Collaboration – Everyone worked equally on the experts’ views – 1 pt • Collaboration – Everyone worked equally on data collection – 1 pt 	3
Individual points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficiency of contents (3 min. presentation; 300 words, 3 slides) – 1 pt • Coherence and Clarity in explanation and/or description – 1 pt • Sufficient and Effective details (literature) or examples (data) – 1 pt • Delivery (talking, not reading); Slides (font size, amount of text) – 1 pt 	4
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial brain-storming attended – 1 pt • Zoom rehearsal attended -1 pt • Two comments to assigned presenters made – 1pt 	3