

Linguistics 311

B. Joseph

FINAL EXAM – TAKE-HOME ESSAY (DUE WEDS JUNE 9)

For your final exam, please write an essay of between one and a half and three double-spaced pages (c. 750 words maximum) addressing one of the following questions or issues, either one from (a) through (g) or one from (1) through (5) – the items lettered (a – g) come from the debate assignment, so if you want to do one of those, you may **NOT** choose the same topic as your team did in the debate.

- a. Ladefoged vs. Dorian: should people change their native language use or not?
 - b. Language loss as parallel to biological loss, linguistic diversity as parallel to biodiversity – salient parallels or not?
 - c. Do revitalized languages show continuity with past forms or are they altered?
 - d. Can language planning efforts through legislation be successful?
 - e. Should non-French speakers should learn abandon their native language when permanently settling in France (ditto for non-German speakers in Germany)? How about non-English speakers in the US?
 - f. Is the death of languages counterbalanced effectively by the "birth" of new languages?
 - g. Are there real benefits to having just a single language for use throughout the world?
1. what are the social, economic, and political factors causing language/dialect endangerment?
 2. how does minority status for a language/dialect affect its speakers?
 3. what effects can endangerment have on the structure of a language/dialect?
 4. is language/dialect endangerment a new phenomenon or has it been going on for millennia?

5. can language/dialect endangerment and death be reversed? Are revitalization efforts possible? Are they successful?

Your essay should be thoughtful and cogent, and should contain specific examples where appropriate; your argumentation should be clear and you should not simply state unsupported opinions. You **MUST** document your sources, whether they are print material (e.g. from readings for the class or for other assignments) or web-based material.