

## Language Terminology Sheet 2 Autumn 1

Accent – the way words are pronounced due to geographical region

Acronymy – the process of abbreviating words to form a new word (e.g. lol not L – O - L)

Adjective – a word that describes the noun

Adjectival phrase - a phrase with an adjective at its head e.g. large lady

Adverb – a word that describes the verb

Adverbial phrase – a verb with an adverb at its head, for example very thoughtful

Alliteration – a sequence of words beginning with the same sound

Anaphora – Where a series of clauses (or phrases) start with the same word or phrase e.g. We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, **we shall fight** on the seas and oceans, **we shall fight** with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall...

Antistrophe – Where a series of clauses end with the same word or phrase e.g. In 1931, Japan invaded Manchukuo-without warning. In 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia-without warning. In 1938, Hitler occupied Austria-without warning. In 1939, Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia,-without warning.

Antonymy – words with the opposite semantic value

Assonance – the repetition of vowel sounds for effect

Auxiliary verb - a verb that supports or helps the main verb, showing tense or modality e.g. have been written (have and been are the auxiliary verbs).

Boosting device – any linguistic device used to intensify the force of an expression. E.g. It will be long, hard and difficult road.

Clause – a section of a sentence or a sentence on its own (if it is a simple sentence).

Colloquialism – an established set of informal terms used in everyday language.

Comparative adjective – an adjective that compares something to something else, e.g. Davis has **fewer** love bites than Sam. (nota bene: fewer is when the amount can be counted).

Complex sentence: a sentence that contains more than one clause with one of the clauses being a subordinate clause. E.g. Jessica was incensed, flying back from Australia, they had put her in standard class.

Compound sentence: a sentence that has two or more main clauses. E.g. Jessica ate her peanuts and she was not impressed.

Connective: words that link clauses

Connotation: an associated symbolic meaning to a word or phrase e.g. bachelor.

Constraints: the ways in which powerful participants in discourse block the contributions of less powerful participants.

Context: where and when a text is written

Context of production: the situation where the text is produced

Context of reception: the situation where the text is read

Convention: a shared feature of a genre

Deixis: words that “point” towards something and place the words in meaning. They are normally pronouns such as I or there. **There** is the place I am walking to.

Denotation: the strict dictionary definition of term. What a word denotes rather than its connotation. E.g. A red rose simply denotes a flower rather than a romantic gesture.

Descriptive approach: the approach to language study that focuses on actual language use, rather than being theoretical.

Dialect: The language variety of a particular area. Not tone of voice but lexical and grammatical variations. E.g. Our kid = my brother in Manchester dialect. “Ar kid” would reflect accent.

Discourse: language use (especially spoken) that is longer than a sentence and usually between more than one person.

Discourse marker: a word or phrase that indicates a change of topic. E.g. Alternatively.

Dual-purpose. A text that has more than one purpose. E.g to entertain and inform.

Dynamic verb: a verb where the situation it describes changes. E.g. He ate the pie. This involves the pie being eaten and therefore a dynamic process. He built the house.

Dysphemism: A normally humorous but harsh name for something. E.g. snail mail for email, gutter press for the tabloids. It is almost the opposite of euphemism.

Elision: the missing out of sounds or parts of words in speech. E.g. “ello”.

Ellipsis: the missing out of words in a sentence, often indicated by the punctuation mark “...”.

Euphemism: a socially acceptable word to avoid talking about something crude or distasteful. E.g. I appear to have movement in my bowels, said David as he raced to the toilets.

External evaluation: an evaluative comment outside the narrative sequence.

Folklinguistics: attitudes and assumptions about language that have no real evidence to support them. E.g. that women are generally more “chatty” than men.

Formulation: the rewording of another’s contribution by a powerful participant to impose a certain meaning. E.g. You spoke of public service cuts in your speech, does this mean tens of thousands of job losses.

Gender: the difference in behaviour and language due to being of a different sex.

Genre: The category or type of a text.

Go off topic: in technological texts, to change the subject.

Greetings sequence: a series of turns designed to initiate a shared social space.

Hedging device: a linguistic device used to express uncertainty. Vague language such as “sort of”, “maybe” etc.

Homophone: a word that sounds the same as another.

Homophonic representation: the use of single letters or numbers to represent a syllable. E.g. Jess is an Rsole, any1.

Ideology: a belief system.

Idiolect: an individual style of speaking, a linguistic fingerprint.

Implied reader: the kind of reader the writer has in mind when writing a text. E.g. racists for the Daily Mail.

Initialism: an abbreviation that uses the first letters but is not sounded as a word. E.g. brb.

Intensifying evaluation: adding detail and vividness.

Internal evaluation: an evaluative comment occurring at the same time as the events in the narrative.

Intransitive verb: a verb process such as yawned or slept that has no object, a little bit like an abstract noun such as love or hate.

Jargon: particularly specialist terminology. E.g. Megabyte.

Lexical accommodation: the way in which speakers (or writers in tech' texts) mirror each others vocabulary and text patterns.

Lexical/semantic field: words and phrases that have connections with one other. E.g. semantic field of football would be: offside, cross, one-two etc etc.

Lexical onomatopoeia: words that sound like the noise they make.

Lexis: the framework that deals with the vocabulary system of language.

Lurker: a technology text user, who reads but rarely comments.

Main clause: A part of a sentence that makes sense on its own.

Main verb: the primary verb as opposed to the auxiliary verb or the adverb.

Metatalk: talk that draws attention to the act of talking itself

Minor sentence: a grammatically incomplete sentence. E.g. London.

Mixed-mode features: features expected in printed text mixed with features expected when spoken.

Mode: the medium of communication. E.g. speech or writing.

Modifier: a word used to add information to another word, usually adjectives or adverbs but sometimes nouns.

Multimodal texts: texts that combine word image and sound to create a whole text. E.g. a children's book.

Oppressive discourse strategy: linguistic behaviour that is open in its exercising of power and control

Over-specificity: the giving of an inappropriately too specific answer. E.g. What did you get up to last night Lewis? I went to... REMOVED BY ADVICE FROM LAWYERS.

Parallelism: the repetition of a pattern or structure in related words, phrases or clauses. It is not what Glee does to annoy viewers; it is how Glee's viewers are annoying.

Personification: a figure of speech where an inanimate object is described as having human characteristics.

Phatic speech acts: turns designed to maintain a sense of cooperation or respect with another speaker.

Phonemic substitution: the replacing of one phoneme by another for effect. E.g. like a pun, I tried to sell a scarred man a pyramid scheme, he was burnt yesterday he told me.

Phonetic spelling: spelling a word how it sounds

Possessive pronoun: the pronoun that demonstrates ownership e.g. our

Post- modification: a modifying phrase that occurs after the noun in a noun phrase.

Prepositional phrase: a phrase that consists of a preposition and an added noun phrase: the dog that lives in the skip.

Primary purpose: the main reason a text has been written.

Pronoun: a word that takes the place of the noun. E.g. it, his, our.

Prosodic features: the tone, volume etc of a voice.

Qualifier: further information to complete the phrase. E.g. The cottage **by the sea**.

Register: a variety of language appropriate to a particular GAP.

Representation: the way a view is put forward through use of language.

Repressive discourse strategy: a more indirect way of exercising power through conversational restraints.

Script: a pre-planned speech

Secondary purpose: a more subtle reason for writing something.

Semantic derogation: the negative connotations some words or phrases have on them. E.g. spinster.

Semantics: the framework that deals with meaning that is generated in texts.

Simple sentence: a sentence consisting of one clause.

Slang: colloquial language innit.

Small talk: talk that is for interaction rather than deeper meaning. E.g. When David talks to Steff about the weather.

Social group power: power held as a result of being part of a dominant social group.

Sociolect: language defined by being part of a social group.

Standard English: a universally accepted dialect for English.

Stative verb: a verb that describes a state rather than an action. E.g. know.

Stereotyping: assigning a general set of characteristics to a group as a whole.

Subordinate clause: a clause that is dependent on another main clause.

Subordinating conjunctions: words such as because and although.

Superlatives: adjectives which show the best. E.g. highest, quickest etc.

Synchronous discourse: discourse that takes place in real time.

Synthetic personalisation: the way in which advertising and others use personalised language such as the second person.

Tag question: a short question usually used to change a statement to be interrogative. E.g. It's cold, isn't it?

Textspeak: the colloquial language of text messaging.

Transcript: the record of a speech or conversation.

Transition relevance point: a point at which it is natural for another speaker to take a turn.

Trolling: The posting of messages to cause offence.

Typography: font size etc

Under-specificity: the vague use of language.

Utterance: like a sentence but when spoken.

Valediction: an item that acts as a farewell.

Variant spelling: deliberately non standard spelling for effect.

Vowel omission: leaving out vowels mainly used in textspeak.

