

Quiz 1 Guide

1. Based on the information presented during Lecture 1, elaborate a definition of identity that includes most current views on the issue. Your answer must be extensive enough to make your reader understand why most poststructuralist authors have rejected previous definitions, and what approach they propose to understand identity in our present times.
2. Linguists believe that all languages change over time. Explain what evidence can be used to prove this claim and which factors interact to produce language change. You don't have to use all of the sociological and linguistic factors mentioned in class to compose your answer. However, you are expected to include at least two factors from each category and present appropriate examples.
3. Why do linguists consider that speech and written language are two very different things? Use historical and practical reasons to prove the different purposes and characteristics that make these two forms of language so different. Also, explain why it is unfair to judge the degree of sophistication of indigenous societies based on their lack of a writing system.
4. Compare and contrast how *prescriptivists* and *descriptivists* think about language standards and language change. Present each point of view, considering its strengths and weaknesses and close your answer with your own opinion on this controversy.
5. Explain how the identity of the Southerners is related to their language patterns, especially their pronunciation. Cite examples from research to support your answer. Also, elaborate on how linguistic stereotypes about Southern speech may impact people's life and social advancement.