

## Samples

Name:

Student ID:

Date: July 4, 2019

### Literature Review

In the reviewed texts, all three authors discuss speech variations in contrast to standard spoken and written English. While each of them puts their main focus on a different aspect of the topic, all three texts state that spoken English, as different as it seems from written English and contrary to some people's impressions about the nature of dialects, does have a set grammatical structure and is not at all chaotic or arbitrary. That being said, it is noteworthy that Svartvik and Leech discuss a "spoken standard English", while the other two texts mainly focus on urban dialects.

Crystal and Johnson also imply that dialectic speech variations signal cultural or regional background while conveying a sense of community. This paradoxically juxtaposes the intent to spread a benevolent attitude towards the use of such language, while shaming children for the pretense that their natural way of expressing themselves is wrong.

All authors imply that a standard form of English proves useful and necessary in certain environments and as mentioned in Svartvik and Leech's text even in a historical sense. While Crystal and Johnson focus only on Speech variations, Svartvik and Leech further explore the historical development of standard English and the relation between spoken and written English.

### Sources:

- Crystal, David. "Ethnic Variation" in *Rediscover Grammar*, Harlow: Longman, 2004, p. 30.
- Svartvik, Jan, and Geoffrey N. Leech. "The Standard Language of Today" in *English: One Tongue, Many Voices*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006, pp. 191-205.
- Johnson, "The importance of proper and improper English", *The Economist*, 2017.

Word Count: 257 words

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### Literature Review

The three texts: “The Standard Language Today” by Svartvik and Leech; “Ethnic Variation” by Crystal; and “The importance of proper and improper English” by Johnson; all concern the topic of the English language in its use of the standard form, development and ethnic origins.

The main point that all authors stress in their texts is that there is a variety in language, whether it is in writing, speech or dialects. This differs from the use of Standard English and can sometimes be an issue, as seen in the Crystal and Johnson texts, which highlight the problem of authorities attempting to force the use of a single Standard English form. Crystal’s and Johnson’s approaches in particular tend to agree on the fact of ethnic origins driving dialect varieties of language, and their importance for rich expression and belonging to a certain social group.

While they all share similarities regarding their main topic, they focus on different aspects of the use of the English Language. Svartvik and Leech take a more explanatory and historical approach, while Crystal and Johnson, respectively, focus more on the present day development and ethnic variation of English and its societal consequences. All texts cover language development, but while Svartvik and Leech seek to explain the formation of Standard English, the other two texts argue more about new forms emerging from this.

#### Sources:

- Crystal, David. “Ethnic Variation” in *Rediscover Grammar*, Harlow: Longman, 2004, p. 30.
- Svartvik, Jan, and Geoffrey N. Leech. “The Standard Language of Today” in *English: One Tongue, Many Voices*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006, pp. 191-205.
- Johnson, “The importance of proper and improper English”, *The Economist*, 2017.

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