

English Department Key Stage 5 Knowledge Organiser – Language Change (Diversity & Change) Paper 2

Theories and Research (AO2)	Key views (AO2)	AO1 Linguistic terminology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescriptivism v Descriptivism – language can control. Language should be fixed v no judgement or negative views on the changes in language. • Links to STANDARDISATION: 17th century – attempts to 'fix' the English Language. Not to mend but to try and stop it from changing. • Jonathan Swift's main concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Vagueness in conversation ✓ Shortening e.g. mob is short for 'mobile vulgus' (Latin for the common crowd) ✓ Unnecessary contractions ✓ Polysyllabic words that make meanings unclear ✓ Invented words by anyone, not qualified to bring in new words! • The Inkhorn Controversy: 16th – 17th century growing pride in the English language. The English lexicon began to expand. Borrowing extensively from classical Latin and Greek and from Romance languages. Thomas Wilson (1553) referred to 'straunge ynkehorne termes'. Inkhorn terms became known to be pretentious and artificial, that might 'corrupt' the English purity. • Samuel Johnson's dictionary c. 1755: Johnson worked to standardise the use, spelling and meaning of words considered important enough to be included in a published work. He found the language to be 'energetick and without rules' – the task took nearly 10 years and was a huge undertaking. • Informalisation and the supposed Golden Age of English: Engage with the arguments that Goodman discusses. She, a descriptivist refers to people's views that there was a golden age of English when the language was the best it could be – perfection. Usually seen to be around the 18th century. She argues that language has informalised over time. Milroy – suggests that there never was a golden age. • Haugen: standardisation is a gradual process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Selection – usually from more prestigious language ✓ Codification – establish rules and norms of use, reduction of internal variability ✓ Elaboration – selected language develops for different purposes (may include expansion) ✓ Implementation – give the standard 'currency' so making it usable e.g. making texts in it and encouraging pride and loyalty in it. • Attitudes to language change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mackinnon (1996) – language can be seen as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct / incorrect • Pleasant / ugly • Socially acceptable / unacceptable • Morally acceptable / unacceptable • Appropriate to context / inappropriate • Useful / useless Freeborn – language is judged against the prestigious standard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How ugly it is • How imprecise it is • How incorrect it is • Jenkins and English as a Lingua Franca <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ELF English is used as a common language among speakers, especially where the non-English language is from Kachru's expanding circle. 5 characteristics: ✓ Used by speakers of different languages to allow communication ✓ An alternative to EFL (English as a Foreign Language) not a replacement – learners of EFL may use to blend with native English speakers ✓ ELF may include innovations ✓ Linguistic accommodation and code-switching are seen as useful strategies in ELF. Will occur in a specific context rather than being an 'all purpose' English ✓ Although users of ELF may have high or low proficiency in English usage. ✓ It is possible to see ELF as following a difference model where English is used as a common communicative tool but variations occur that reflect local languages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AITCHISON: refers to a 'crumbling castle' suggesting that change is disintegrating the structure of language. Change is infecting the language like a virus. Also refers to a 'damp spoon' suggesting that change is creating laziness. • DAVID CRYSTAL <i>Swimming with the Tide of Language Change</i>: "There is no predictable changes for the changes that are taking place. They are just that: Changes." • OLIVER KAMM <i>Accidence Will Happen</i>: "Pedants are loud, numerous and indignant. They are convinced that standards in English usage are falling, and they blame schools and the media for tolerating this alleged deterioration. The outcome, so these purists maintain, is linguistic barbarism, in which slang, sloppiness and text-speak supplant English grammar. Don't believe it. If there is one language that isn't endangered, it's English. The language is changing because that's what a living language does." • DEUTSCHER <i>The Unfolding of Language</i>: "Of all mankind's manifold creations, language must take pride of place. Without language, we could never have embarked on our ascent to unparalleled power over all other animals, and even over nature itself." – takes a descriptivist viewpoint. • HITCHINGS <i>The Language Wars</i>: The development of the Dictionary reflected Johnson's own changing attitude to English. When he began work on the project, he believed he could embalm the language, yet by the time he completed it he was conscious of the necessary mutability of English. • HUGHES on political correctness: "Nevertheless, it (dictionary) has had a major influence on what is regarded as "acceptable" or "appropriate" in language, ideas, behavioural norms, and values." • PINKER <i>The Blank State</i>: "People invent new words for emotionally charged referents, but soon the euphemism becomes tainted by association." <p>Diversity theory that links well to language change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Howard Giles, Trudgill, Kerwsill and Williams – convergence and divergence ✓ David Crystal – bi-dialectalism / tri-dialectalism ✓ Crystal, Kerswill and Williams – dialect levelling ✓ William Labov – accommodation ✓ Trudgill on prescriptivism 	<p>Acronyms</p> <p>Affixation</p> <p>Amelioration</p> <p>Archaic language</p> <p>Asynchronic</p> <p>Blending</p> <p>Borrowing</p> <p>Broadening</p> <p>Clipping</p> <p>Compounding</p> <p>Computer mediated communication</p> <p>Conservatism</p> <p>Crumbling castle</p> <p>Damp spoon</p> <p>Declinism</p> <p>Determinism</p> <p>Diachronic</p> <p>External change</p> <p>Functional theory</p> <p>Great vowel shift</p> <p>Initialism</p> <p>Internal change</p> <p>Lexical gaps</p> <p>Metaphor</p> <p>Narrowing</p> <p>Pejoration</p> <p>Prescriptivism/descriptivism</p> <p>Random fluctuation</p> <p>Reflectionism</p> <p>Rising intonation</p> <p>Substratum theory</p> <p>Standardisation</p> <p>Technology</p> <p>Vocal fry</p> <p>Wave and S Curve</p>

English Department Key Stage 5 Knowledge Organiser – *Language Change* (Diversity & Change) Paper 2