Style Sheet

Guidelines for writing and formatting a term paper in English Linguistics

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1. Basics

All term papers in this department must be written in English. They must be submitted on time, in printed <u>and</u> electronic form, to 1) the lecturer's office or university postbox (the date of arrival being the official reception date, rubber-stamped by a lecturer from our department or the university post room), and 2) an e-mail address specified by the lecturer. Form and contents must meet the guidelines specified below. Term papers must be accompanied by a signed declaration of originality ('Selbständigkeitserklärung', see 3.9).

Including footnotes, but not counting the cover page, table of contents, references and appendix, term papers must meet the requirements specified in the examination regulations. Papers which are too short or too long will not be accepted. The general guideline for papers in the new BA/MA programmes is as follows; for further details please refer to Appendix C.

Proseminar: 3,800–4,600 words (10–12 pages, max. +10%)

Hauptseminar: c. 6,000 words (15 pages, \pm 10%)

2. Form

Before you start writing, in Microsoft Word or OpenOffice Writer, format your document according to the following guidelines. Alternatively, you may use our term paper template, but note that other sections of the department may expect a different format.

TIP: If you print your paper elsewhere, e.g. at a copyshop, save it as PDF to avoid undesired alterations in other programme versions.

2.1 General formatting

- o Paper size: DIN A4, one-sided.
- o Page margins: 3 cm each left and right, 2.5 cm each top and bottom.
- Font: 12 pt Times New Roman (or any other comparable font and size) for the text,
 10pt Times New Roman (or any other comparable font and size) for footnotes.
- o Line spacing: in running text 1.5, in footnotes 1.0
- o Spacing before and after headings: same spacing for headings of the same text level, e.g., two 12 pt spaces before chapters 2, 3, 4,... but only one 12 pt space before subsections such as 2.1 and 2.2.
- No page break between chapters.
- The text must be justified ('Blocksatz'). If needed, use a hyphenation programme or hyphenate manually at the right-hand margin to avoid loose lines.
- o Indention: The first paragraph after a heading is not indented; all other paragraphs begin with a 0.5, 0.75 or 1.0 cm indent which sets them apart from the previous paragraph (use 'tab stops').
- o Remember that paragraphs are sense units and typically consist of more than one sentence. Start a new paragraph to introduce a new aspect, idea or perspective.
- Avoid leaving the first line of a new paragraph at the bottom of a page, or the last line of a paragraph at the top of a page.
- The page count starts with chapter 1; there are no page numbers on the cover page, the table of contents or the declaration of originality.

2.2 Italics, quotation marks and brackets

Use the correct style and typographical conventions right from the start.

Use of *italics*:

Foreign words

Greek prāgma means 'act'.

Words or sentences used as linguistic examples (metalinguistically) within the text

In the sentence *It is interesting to see what he meant*, the verb *see* is used metaphorically for *understand*.

o Linguistic terms and concepts when first introduced

Austin proposes a fundamental distinction between *constative* and *performative* utterances.

 Titles of independent publications (books, journals, but not articles in journals or edited volumes, see 3.7)

Conboy, Martin. 2010. *The Language of Newspapers. Socio-Historical Perspectives*. London: Continuum.

Use of quotation marks

Please use English, not German quotation marks.

Use of 'single quotation marks':

Translations

OE fugol 'bird'

Quotations within quotations

In Chaucer's *Tale of Melibee*, Prudence argues that "[...] of swiche wommen seith Salomon that 'it were bettre dwelle in desert than with a woman that is riotous'" (Chaucer, *Tale of Melibee*, 1087).

Semantic meanings

The adjective sesquipedalian means 'having many syllables'.

Use of "double quotation marks":

- o Short verbatim quotations (shorter than 3 lines, see 2.4)
- o Titles of articles in journals, edited volumes, handbooks

Use of brackets in linguistic description:

0	Phonology:	Phone [1]	Phoneme /l/	Allophone [l], [t]
O	Orthography:	Graph <l></l>	Grapheme <l></l>	Allograph <l>, <l></l></l>
O	Morphology:	Morph {for}	Morpheme {for}	Allomorph /fo:/, /fə/

2.3 Citation practices

All sources must be specified clearly, not just at the end of your paper in the bibliography, but by a reference in the body of the text. However, do not insert a reference after each sentence.

Bear in mind that using information without acknowledging it is **plagiarism**, which is intellectual theft and a criminal offence. Any student found engaging in it will automatically fail the course in question, with possible further punishments as stated in the 'Selbständigkeitserklärung' (see sections 1 and 3.9).

Short verbatim quotations (less than three lines, as in example (1a)) are set in double quotation marks and are incorporated in the running text. They are accompanied by a short reference to the author and year (*name-date system*), along with the page number if the source is a book or article. **Do not put these references in footnotes.** Footnotes are reserved for additional information.¹ Reformulated and paraphrased ideas must also be indicated by giving the reference (as in (1b)).

(1a) The corpus-driven approach is distinguished from the corpus-based approach, the latter availing itself of corpus data "mainly to expand, test or exemplify theories" (Tognini-Bonelli 2001: 65).

or:

According to Tognini-Bonelli (2001: 65), the corpus-driven approach is distinguished from the corpus-based approach, the latter availing itself of corpus data "mainly to expand, test or exemplify theories."

(1b) The field of psycholinguistics incorporates language acquisition because the latter is closely connected with the early cognitive development of the child (Steinberg 1993: 23–7).

Longer quotations are separated from the text and indented, without quotation marks, as seen in (2a). Here, you can use single line spacing, but do not forget to return to 1.5 pt afterwards.

(2a) The claim that monolingualism is the norm is wrong, not least because all humans possess the capacity to learn several languages. An adequate theory of language competence, use and acquisition must be able to account for this, treating multilingualism, rather than monolingualism, as the default cause. (Hammarberg 2010: 92)

If you quote the same source repeatedly in the same paragraph – without any other source in between – use 'ibid.' as an abbreviation (< Latin *ibidem* 'the same place'), as seen in (2b). When the reader sees 'ibid.', he/she will look at the reference preceding it. If the source is the same but the page is different, add the page number as seen in (2c).

- (2b) Well-known difficulties for the elicitation of spontaneous speech, such as the observer's paradox (Labov 1972: 113), the tape recorder effect (ibid.) and effects of hyperadaptation (Trudgill 2004b: 62), are thus minimised.
- (2c) The main differences compared to Modern English consist in the following features: a fourfold case distinction in NOM, GEN, ACC and DAT forms, two additional dual forms wit 'we two' and ġit 'you two' (cf. Mitchell 1985: 110) and overt number distinction between 2SG bu and 2PL ġe (ibid., 114).

Sometimes you will want to adapt the quoted text to make it fit into your own text. Any changes or omissions have to be marked with square brackets, as seen in example (3), including any insertions you make.

(3) Original text:

The difficult part, to which the bulk of this chapter relates, lies in the range of opinions about the purpose of e-mail as a communicative medium, and...

¹ A brief note on footnotes: Footnotes are numbered consecutively. You do not have to have any footnotes in your paper, but if you do, they should contain additional information which is too long to include in the running text, e.g. further aspects, arguments or references that might interest the reader.

Adapted text, for example:

Crystal (2006: 99) is definitely right when he states that "[t]he difficult part [...] lies in the range of *opinions* about the purpose of e-mail as a communicative medium" [my emphasis].

Always try to quote from the original source. If there is an English original that you can get hold of, do not quote from a translated version. Quotations from languages other than English can be included in two ways: either you include the foreign-language quote directly and provide a translation in brackets (as in (4a)), or you translate the original text, in which case you must indicate that it is your translation and provide the original source in a footnote (as in (4b)).

- Gutzmann defines the meaning of *ethic datives* as "eine Sprechereinstellung in Form einer unabhängigen Proposition P_{DE} zur Proposition Ps des Satzes, in dem er steht. ('the speaker's attitude towards the proposition Ps of the sentence in which it stands by an independent proposition P_{DE}', 2007: 282).
- (4b) According to Gutzmann, the *ethic dative* expresses "the speaker's attitude towards the proposition Ps of the sentence in which it stands by an independent proposition P_{DE} " (2007: 282; my translation).¹

To denote incorrect or unconventional spelling or grammar in the original source, you can insert [sic] (< Latin 'so/like this') in order to show that you did not make a mistake.

- (5) In 1970, the Department for Tourism and Economic Development published a booklet titled The Businessmans' [sic] guide to Jerusalem.
- (6) Jyotika Virdi speaks of "The cinematic imagiNation" [sic] with regard to Indian films as social history.

If you use information from dictionaries, please make sure to provide precise references as well. Well-known dictionaries can be abbreviated after first mention (e.g. OED for *Oxford English Dictionary*). Individual dictionary entries are referred to with s.v. (< Latin *sub voce/verbo*), multiple entries with svv. (*sub vocibus/verbis*).

(7) We have to distinguish between *punk*, n1, originally meaning 'a prostitute' (*OED* s.v. A. I.1.) and two further homonyms with quite different meanings (*OED* s.vv. *punk*, n.2 and n.3).

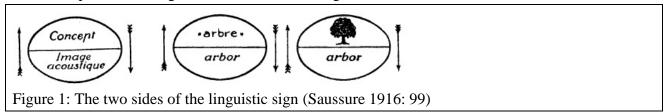
2.4 Examples, tables and figures

Similar to quotations, the source must be specified for all examples, tables and figures. Examples (especially longer ones) should be separated from the running text, numbered consecutively and aligned with spaces or tabs; the same applies to listings, as seen in (8).

- (8) Quirk et al. characterize adjectives as follows:
 - a. They can freely occur in attributive function.
 - b. They can freely occur in predicative function.
 - c. They can be premodified by the intensifier *very*.
 - d. They can take comparative and superlative forms.

 $^{^1}$ "Der Dativus Ethicus drückt eine Sprechereinstellung in Form einer unabhängigen Proposition P_{DE} zur Proposition Ps des Satzes, in dem er steht, aus."

Tables and figures are also numbered consecutively. Each table and each figure should have a concise caption including the source, as seen in Figure 1.



2.5 Special symbols and abbreviations

Use IPA symbols to reflect pronunciation, for example:

(9) The word fish /fɪʃ/ is initially pronounced as /fɪs/ by small children.

You might have to install an additional font set on your computer (which you can download for free from the IPA website at http://www.langsci.ucl.ac.uk/ipa/, or from the English Linguistics Essen website at http://www.uni-due.de/ELE/). Before submitting your paper, make sure that all special symbols are displayed correctly.

Please make sure to use the abbreviations common in English:

e.g. means 'for example' (< Latin *exempli gratia*)

cf. means 'compare' (< Latin *conferre*)

i.e. means 'that is/that means' (< Latin *id est*)

3. Contents and structure

The main goal of a term paper is to show your ability to work scientifically. In other words, you should show that

- o you understand and are able to receive and reflect the academic literature, facts and approaches;
- you make the topic your own, setting your own priorities, focus and guiding questions or hypotheses;
- o you are able to apply the knowledge gained from the literature and transfer this knowledge to other linguistic fields or aspects, including your own examples and analyses;
- o you demonstrate the ability to criticise your secondary sources (constructively and in proper academic style!) and to position yourself in relation to them.

When you are reflecting on what you have read or collected make sure to ask yourself *why* something is the case, do not just say that it is so. For instance, you might state that language acquisition is quick and thorough for the first language and slower and less perfect for the second language later in life. Having said this, you must then ask yourself the question: *why* is this so? Try then and offer a principled explanation in a linguistically acceptable fashion.

A term paper must contain the following parts: a title page, a table of contents, an introduction, a main part, a conclusion, and a bibliography (references). If needed, e.g. in advanced papers, it may also contain a list of abbreviations, a list of tables and figures, and an appendix.

Regarding the contents, every term paper is of course different. However, there are some general guidelines which will help you write a good paper.

- O Build your paper around a concise and precise thesis statement or guiding question; make your main topic clear in the title already, so that the reader knows what the paper is about; in the text, stick to this topic, providing arguments to support or dispute your thesis, or to discuss your topic from different perspectives.
- o Do not just report what you have read in the secondary literature, do not simply sum up your sources; a term paper has to include your own research, assessments and critical thinking.
- o Do not accept what you read too readily; question your sources; if you do not agree with what you read, state how your views differ from it and criticise constructively.
- o Make use of your linguistic knowledge; look at everything you read, and your own writing too, through a linguist's lens, and apply the 'linguistic toolkit' you have acquired.

3.1 Title page

For an example, see Appendix A.

Top left:

- o Name of the university and department
- o Term when the seminar took place
- o Title of the seminar
- o Name of the lecturer (check website for correct spelling and academic titles!)

Centre:

- Title (and subtitle) of the paper (clearly stating the central topic)
- o Module or type of paper (e.g. Module C, Reading Course Essay, Vertiefungsarbeit Kulturwirt)

Bottom right:

- Your name and matriculation number
- o Course of studies and semester (when you took the seminar)
- University e-mail address

3.2 List of abbreviations, tables or figures

In case you use many specific abbreviations or various tables, figures or even maps in your paper, you might want to include an overview which the reader can turn to. (Do not include standard abbreviations such as 'e.g.'.) Such lists are found in most monographs and edited volumes. Since they precede the first chapter of the paper, they get small Roman numerals as page numbers (see Appendix B).

3.3 Table of contents

The table of contents contains the headings of the different chapters and subchapters of the paper plus the corresponding page numbers, as seen in Appendix B (no page ranges; dot leaders are optional). Both the chapter and page numbers are written in Arabic numerals (except the lists discussed in 3.2).

Watch out for these common mistakes:

- o The headings in the table of contents must be identical with the headings in the text.
- You can choose to capitalise the content words (nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.) or not, but whatever your choice, be consistent.
- o If you subdivide a chapter into subchapters, you must have at least two subchapters; i.e. if you subdivide chapter 3 into 3.1 you must at least also have 3.2.
- o Avoid more than three structural levels (be reader-friendly); for example, 3.2.2 is still ok, but not 3.2.2.1.
- Avoid too many subchapters (the shorter the paper the fewer subchapters), and avoid very short subchapters (each should be more than 0.5 pages long).
- o Do not put a dot after the numbers of subchapters: 1. is correct, but 1.1, 1.2.1, etc.

3.4 Introduction

As a rule of thumb, the introduction should not be longer than 1/10 of the paper. In this part, you introduce the imaginary reader to your topic. Explain what your object of study is and how you will approach it (including the theories and methods applied). What are your main research questions, and why should these questions be asked, or: what knowledge and insights can be gained? You can already hint at the results which you hope to reach by the end of the paper.

If your methodology or the theoretical background knowledge needed to understand your paper is more complex, you may want to put these aspects in separate chapters.

3.5 Main part (in empirical papers: method section, results section, and discussion)

After the introduction comes the central part of the paper, divided into chapters (if necessary with subsections, see 3.3). In this part, you offer a comprehensive treatment of the topic announced in the title of your paper and the different aspects related to it. You may include a summary or critical interpretation at the end of each major section. At the very latest, this must be included at the end of the paper.

The exact structure of the main part varies depending on the topic. If you are not sure about the structure or which aspects to include, ask your fellow students for their opinion and discuss the issue with your lecturer.

Even though you should show that you have read and understood the linguistic literature available for your topic, use quotations sparingly to enhance your own arguments. If you directly quote passages from some book, or include pieces of literature, it must be clear why you do so, i.e. it must be justified by the discussion you are engaged in at that point in your paper. You should not just include quotations for the purpose of filling pages. Do not string them together but integrate them into your writing. After all, this is *your* text, and the reader (i.e. your lecturer) wants to hear what you have to say in your own words (also see 2.3 Citation practices). This will show that you have processed the information mentally for yourself.

3.6 Conclusion

In this section you should try to summarise and give a final judgment on your major findings (briefly), drawing together the various threads of arguments developed in the paper. A critical evaluation of the material should be offered to the reader and you should try to express your own views on what you have read and presented in your own words. The conclusion should be at least half a page long. You can also call this section "Summary" or "Synopsis".

You may decide to pick one or more of the following ways to conclude your paper.

- Review your initial thesis statement and relate it to your results (possibly in multiple steps).
- O State if and why your thesis statement has been proven completely, partly, or not at all.
- o Consider the relevance of your results and whether you can make any suggestions on the basis of your thesis.
- o Embed your findings in a wider context of present, past or future linguistic research.

At the very end of the paper, it is always good to add an "Outlook". In the outlook you can mention questions which still need to be solved and any interesting issues related to your topic which you could not study but which would be worth investigating in the future.

3.7 Bibliography/References

This section must include all references mentioned in the body of the text (not including secondary sources mentioned in quotations from other authors). Do *not* put books or articles in the references section which you did not quote in the body of the text. References are listed in alphabetical order (by name of author, or by title in case of sources without author). In the table below you find a detailed description of citation conventions. Please make sure that the reference format is used consistently.

Depending on the kind of paper you are expected to use at least 5 or 6 references (preferably books *and* articles). A Hauptseminar paper would usually require more than this. If needed, you can divide this section into primary sources (e.g. linguistic data, corpora), secondary sources (the linguistic literature you have read and quoted) and other sources (e.g. special programmes used to analyse your data). Further differentiations (e.g. according to the type or medium of publication) are not necessary.

You can use Internet sources in a term paper, but must specify them as precisely as possible. In order to pick and choose from the incredible amount of information found online, you must already master your topic, which is why you should first check the sources available in the library *before* searching for additional material online. Make sure that you *only* use materials from university departments or reputable sources, such as a publisher or a government department or agency. Be *sceptical* about anything you read in the Internet, and try and confirm information you take from it by consulting at least two independent sources. If possible, prefer peer-reviewed encyclopaedias from the university library over Wikipedia.

In addition, references to online data might be difficult if no author, year or title is mentioned. In those cases, list the URL, possibly under the name of the website, or a username, or introduce a telling title yourself, in order to be able to refer to the source in the text (see the memes in Table 1, the first of which is referenced under the user's name, the second under an invented title).

The following table provides an overview of the most important quotation conventions.

	In the text	In the bibliography
Monograph	(Bednarek 2006: 45-	Bednarek, Monika. 2006. Evaluation in Media Discourse. Analysis
(1 author)	47)	of a Newspaper Corpus. London/New York: Continuum.
Monograph	(Hachmeister/Rager	Hachmeister, Lutz, and Günther Rager. 2005. Wer beherrscht die
(2–3 authors)	2005: 69)	Medien? Jahrbuch 2005: Die 50 größten Medienkonzerne der Welt.
		München: Beck.

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	(last accessed September 12, 2021).

Table 1: Citing from secondary sources

3.8 Appendix

The appendix is not part of the running text, i.e. it does not count towards the total number of pages or words that you are expected to write. You do not need to have an appendix but it can be useful if you want to add information that you consider important but too long to show in the running text (e.g. longer tables, additional graphs, maps, or primary data in the form of transcripts, etc). If you need to subdivide your appendix (which will only be the case in longer papers), use the section title "Appendices" instead, then subdivide into A, B, ... If you want to attach audio or video files, you can hand in a CD-ROM together with your paper.

3.9 Selbständigkeitserklärung

At the end of the paper, the following text must be included and signed. Since this is not part of your paper, it does not have a page number and you need not mention it in the table of contents.

Selbständigkeitserklärung
ch,
(Vorname, Name, MatrNr.)
versichere hiermit, dass ich diese Arbeit selbständig verfasst bzw. im Fall einer Gruppenarbeit die von mir
elbständig verfassten Teile gekennzeichnet habe. Ich habe keine anderen als die angegebenen Quellen und
Hilfsmittel benutzt und alle Ausführungen, die anderen Schriften wörtlich oder sinngemäß entnommen
vurden, kenntlich gemacht.
Mir ist bekannt, dass ein Täuschungsversuch u.a. mit einer Geldbuße von bis zu 50.000 Euro geahndet
verden kann, und dass der/die Studierende im Fall eines mehrfachen oder sonstigen schwerwiegenden
Fäuschungsversuchs zudem exmatrikuliert werden kann.
Ort, Datum Unterschrift

4. Style

Present your contents in precise and clear words, avoiding too many repetitions and applying the correct technical and linguistic terminology. Imagine a reader (not your lecturer!) who has a certain background knowledge of linguistics, but reads about this particular topic for the first time. Use an argumentative matter-of-fact style; it is great to be enthusiastic about a topic, but your emotions (positive or negative) must not reflect in the text.

TIP: When reading the linguistic literature, try to notice and learn from the academic style used by published authors. How is this style new or different; which traits or formulations could you adopt?

5. Before you hand in your paper

- o Run a spell-check and check your style. Make sure you did not mix spelling standards, i.e. stick to either British or American English. In Microsoft Word, go to the *Tools* menu and select a language (UK or US English).
- Check the format (be a real nitpicker!); if possible, ask a native speaker to proofread your paper, or ask a fellow student.
- o Do not forget to include and sign the Versicherung an Eides Statt.
- o Hand in a printed version of your paper (and any data CD-ROMs) by the deadline prescribed by your lecturer.
- O Submit an electronic version of your paper to the e-mail address specified by your lecturer; send it as one file (*.doc, *.docx, *.odt, *.rtf).

Universität Duisburg-Essen

Department of Anglophone Studies

Winter term 2012/13

Seminar: Language Acquisition Lecturer: Prof. Raymond Hickey

The stages of first language acquisition

Module C

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Matr.no. ...
Lehramt Bachelor, semester 5
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Appendix B: Example table of contents

Table of Contents		
1.	Introduction	
2.	The early development of the child	
2.1	Cognitive and linguistic development	
2.2	Stages in the early years of the child	
3.	Theoretical views of first language acquisition	
3.1	Behaviourism	
3.2	Nativism 8	
3.3	Critical interpretation of both theories	
4.	Conclusion	
5.	References	
Append	lix14	

Appendix C: Page ranges (! in correspondence with the above-mentioned word counts)

10-12 pages c. 3,800–4,600 words 12-15 pages c. 4,600-6,000 words

15 pages c. 6,000 words

15-20 pages c. 6,000-7,600 words

Lehramt

Lehramt BA (WS 2018/19)

Mod. LING2 (A&A)	10-12 (max. + 10%)
Mod. AAC	12-15 (max. + 10%)

Lehramt Master, Mod. I: 15 (± 10%)

2-Fach Bachelor und Master Anglophone Studies

2-Fach BA (WS 2018/19)

2-Fach MA "English Linguistics" (WS 2018/19 - ...)

Mod. LING2 (A&A)	10-12 (max. + 10%)
Mod. AAC	12-15 (max. + 10%)

Mod. Language in Use: 15 (± 10%)

1-Fach Master (last adm. WS 2011/12)

Mod. X/1	15-20 (4CPs)
Mod. X/2	15-20 (4CPs)
Mod. XIV	12-15 (3CPs)
Mod. XII	12-15 (3CPs)

Kulturwirt

Kulturwirt BA (WS 2013/14 – WS 2017/18)

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Mod. III	max. 12 (max. + 10%)		
Mod. VI/2	max. 15 (max. + 10%)		

Kulturwirt (WS 2018)

Kulturwirt MA

Mod. "Cultural Studies" 15 (± 10%))

Mod. LING2_KW	12-15 (max. + 10%)
Mod. AAC	12-15 (max. + 10%)