



Examples from Australian universities

Second Language Teacher Education Students' Research Based Assignment

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Broad discipline area:

Education

- Applied Linguistics: Second Language Teacher Education

Year level:

- Postgraduate coursework

TRN strategy:

- Building a small scale research activity into assignments

Teaching and learning context:

- Assessment item

Brief description of the initiative:

Linguistics for Language Teachers is a core course in the Graduate Certificate in Applied Linguistics and Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics programs, with typical enrolment numbers of 40-50. Students tape-record a short narrative of a non-English speaking background speaker as part of their assignment work. This course introduces students to the fields of theoretical and applied linguistics. It aims to enhance future ESL teachers' formal knowledge about language, to improve their skills in using the metalanguage of grammar, and to develop skills in utilising language data for course design tailored to learner needs.

Error Analysis Based on Collected Data: Assessment Guidelines

In this 3,000-word assignment representing 70% of the assessment, students transcribe the recorded narrative and undertake an error analysis. The academic provides detailed guidance in the form of a clear description of the requirements and marking criteria that set the parameters to guide the students through the task. Students undertake the following steps:

- Data gathering through recording of a short text produced by a NESB speaker (e.g. retelling of a short story).
- Transcribing of two pages from the taped text, written with the errors as they were heard.

- A detailed analysis of pronunciation errors, morphological errors and syntactic errors of this data.
- Written analysis including an introduction of the subject (his/her gender, age, language learning experiences, cultural background, learning purpose, motivation etc.), presentation and explanation of phonological errors, morphological errors and the syntactic errors.
- Identification of the most urgent area of need of the speaker and discussion of the teaching implications with regard to addressing this area of need.

The inquiry-based assignment fosters the development of students' error analysis skills, and the ability to apply linguistic frameworks for the analysis and understanding of texts.

For further details:

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