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# UHE 3092 ENGLISH MECHANICS

## Language Awareness

by

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# Lesson Objectives

- To develop awareness in the English language system
- To cultivate the interest in learning English language

# Go to forum – Language Awareness - to respond to these questions

Do you know what awareness means?

What is language awareness?


Do you think is it important to nurture awareness in language?  
Why?

# Definition of Language Awareness

- According to Association for Language Awareness (ALA), language awareness can be defined as “explicit knowledge about language, and conscious perception and sensitivity in language learning, language teaching and language use”.
- It does not focus on the English system solely, but the dimensions surround the language.
- To become a good language user, we have to be conscious of the rules in using the language, the context in where and when we use the language and how to use them appropriately.

# The importance of language awareness

- To make learning languages more meaningful
- To develop more understanding about the language and be conscious when using the language
- To enhance language acquisition
- To explore the approaches to become a proficient user

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- There are many varieties of language used by groups which are defined according to
    - Social class
    - Education
    - Age
    - Gender
    - Culture

# Social class and education

## Upper class and more educated

- Tend to use more complicated forms
- Use more sophisticated words and complex words; jargons

## Lower class and less educated

- Tend to simplify the way of speaking
- Use simple and basic words

# Age

- Elders may speak a bit different from youngsters.
- Youngsters may have certain codes that are only understandable by them.



Sup yo!



TTYL!



LOL!!!



# Gender

## Female

- Tend to use more sophisticated language
- Tend to use wordy and lengthy sentences
- Discuss more of their personal feelings
- Usually mention personal experiences

## Male

- Tend to use simpler ways of speaking
- More straight forward and focus on the point
- Prefer non personal topics such as sports and news
- Respond by giving advice or solution

# Culture

- Different culture may have different ways of saying the same thing.
- Eg:

English

Malay



Straight forward

Beat around the bush

- People use language differently depending on the situation, purpose.....
  - Informal vs formal
  - Eg:
    - Situation in a café
    - Situation in an administration office

- .....and who they are talking to.
  - People with authority vs without authority
  - Eg:
    - King vs citizen
    - Lecturer vs student
    - Employer vs employee

- Let's talk about these words:
  - Please
  - Thank you
  - Excuse me

When do you use these words?

Do you apply it in your daily life in campus?

# Example

**1. Can I go to the bathroom?**

**2. May I use the restroom please?**

- **Which one is more polite?**

## Can I go to the bathroom?

I am sure you *can* go there, but that isn't how we ask!

- There is a better way to ask politely!

# May I use the restroom please?

**This is much better and proper to ask for permission.**



# Another example

- A student is asking his lecturer:
  - Hi miss A. Are you free now? I want to see you after this. Can or not?

What do you think about this conversation? Is it proper to say to a lecturer like that?

Discuss on how to speak in a more polite way.

# Politeness

- Politeness has its own functions such as to avoid conflicts; to ensure cooperative interaction, to show respect, and etc.
- It is not hard to say “Thank you” to the lunch helpers or “please” whenever you want to go to a restroom.
- Be nice to others and they will be nice to you!

# How to write/speak English fluently?

- Understand that there is no “magic bullet.”
- Use English in your daily life as much as possible.
- Balance the areas of language learning.
- Get a regular speaking/writing partner through a “conversation exchange” website.  
(EG: <http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/>)
- [www.penpalworld.com](http://www.penpalworld.com)

- **Read, watch and listen to English in *many different contexts*.**
- **Learn to think in English**
- **Practice talking to yourself (eg: vlog) or writing a blog!**
- **Don't give up...and never stop learning!**