

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

### Generating ideas

Language changes over time= *Boring topic sentence!*

The technological revolution has shaped the way language is used worldwide= *OH, THAT IS AN INTERESTING TOPIC SENTENCE!*

*Any sentence that does not discuss language generally, but comments on:*

**1) What this language feature SHOWS us about attitudes?**

This <feature> highlights/demonstrates/reveals/shows etc.

**2) HOW does this language feature reflect social values?**

What does this feature say about our society? How does reflect the ideas or concepts that are valued by this society?

**3) How is the SPEAKER connected to a group or society?**

Does this close the social distance between various interlocutors? Does this increase distance between the speaker and certain sections of society? How does it signify our distance or belonging to a group?

**4) What does the feature ALLOW us to do?**

Is the feature necessary for efficient communication? Is it a product of the medium that it is primarily applied to? How does the context of the discourse influence the features used?

**5) What are the global EFFECTS of this language feature?**

How can this feature change the way we speak? What is its impact upon the nature of human communication?

**Throughout history language has always held multiple functions and has shown great flexibility in adapting to the needs of the people.** It has allowed for individuals to establish their identities and foster relationships with others on the basis of this, whether it be on an individual or national scale. Slang is one of the means by which such an identity can be created, whilst ethnolects too are able to reflect identity, due to Australia's multicultural nature. In addition different accents, such as Broad Australian English can also forge unity and this language will inevitably assist in creating an identity as well.

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**Comment [1]:** General comment about language that integrates their contention and the essay topic.

Slang is one of the means by which an identity can be formed, through the mutual trends of a group. **It is a purely lexical field of an ephemeral nature, which helps establish those who are in the group and those who are not.** These inclusive and exclusive functions serve to unite its users who have lexical features in common.

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**Comment [2]:** Student has discussed the effect that this metalanguage has without defining it.

One such example is the use of 'cray cray', which was said in Big Brother in Australia in 2012. This is a reduplication and shortening of the lexeme 'crazy', and slang like this appeals to younger demographics in Australia. Furthermore, Australian identity too can be formed in slang, through use of diminutives, where lexemes are shortened to one syllable and a suffix of -ie, -o or -y is inserted. Recent examples of this include 'devo' (devastated) said by Andy Allen (Masterchef 2012) and 'smoko' (smoking) which appeared on ABC Grandstand radio through the first cricket test of this summer in Australia. As the diminutive is uniquely Australian, our propensity to use it enhances our national sense of identity, so that we may understand phrases like, **'Bay 13 is the possie at the 'G where yobbos piff tinnies and go home in the back of a divvy van.'** (Stimulus B); which requires a knowledge and understanding of contemporary Australian slang. **In this way, slang has the power to write groups and build identity, in a similar way to ethnolects.**

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**Comment [3]:** Consider the use of the stimulus material and how this is used in a way that supports their argument. How have they tied this into their discussion? How have they analysed it?

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**Comment [4]:** Clear link to the subsequent argument.

Australia's long history of multiculturalism has seen a rise in the use of ethnolects, a means by which identity can be conveyed. Many borrowings have come from different cultures, with foods in particular being the best reflection of this. On the popular morning drive time show 'Hughes and Kate', Dave Hughes asked Kate Longbrooke if 'she was up for some yum cha.' This shows the influence other cultures are having in Australia, and this builds our identity as a nation which values the numerous cultures that reside in it. Furthermore, phonological features can unite different ethnic groups in Australia. For instance, in Singaporean English (SpAE) there is a deletion of the voiceless glottal fricative /h/ phoneme, where the Standard Australian English [wɪð] becomes the SpAE equivalent [wit]. A speech feature like this, especially by smaller ethnic groups in Australia can aid in building solidarity between them, and hence, an identity. **Therefore** ethnolects are another means by which language can display a person's identity.

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**Comment [5]:** Use of connectives is consistent throughout the piece.

Broad Australian English (BAE) is a language variety unique to Australia which plays a role in establishing a national identity. **It is representative of some of the values aspired to in Australia, a carefree, easy-going and classless society which is down to earth and friendly.** (This may be conveyed in a number of ways, with non-standard syntax such as double negatives (I didn't do nothing!) and plural forms (youse) being indicative of these characteristics with a 'no worries' nature that Australians call their own. In an interview with the Australian professional footballer Lance Franklin in June, his accent was characteristic of BAE, showing evidence of voicing in his pronunciation [fɔri:] as opposed to the Standard Australian English [fɔti:]. **This shows** that despite his high socio-economic status, he wished to convey his identity as that of one who is masculine, tough and down to earth, as many footballers do, but also show the classless nature of Australian society, as he has chosen to identify with those who are predominantly from a lower socio-economic status than himself. Therefore, BAE has a clear influence on the formation of a national identity.

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**Comment [6]:** Links language with cultural values. Make sure that you address these big ideas in your essay.

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**Comment [7]:** Clearly highlighting the links between the evidence and the argument.

With different varieties of language, different aspects of our identity can be conveyed. Slang can foster solidarity to build solidarity within people, ranging from an individual to a national level. Furthermore, ethnolects and multiculturalism have had a clear impact on identities in Australia, shared both by Australians and people of other cultures. In terms of national identity, Broad Australian English facilitates the formation of mutual identity on the basis of the characteristics and values we aspire to as a nation. **Overall, though, there is an inexplicable link between language and identity that is portrayed in the many facets of daily life in Australia.**

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**Comment [8]:** Conclusion highlights the propositions that the author has made.