

ESSAY WRITING NOTES -----

Australian voices reflect our diverse culture. Is this your understanding of contemporary Australian English?

Notes

- Key words: voices, diverse, contemporary, Australian English
- Word association: variety, phonology, different cultures, multiculturalism, current society, historical diversity, varieties, accents.
- Paraphrased version: Australian English, in its current state, is an accurate reflection of our cultural diversity.
- General ideas:
 - a) Different varieties: Ethnocultural, Standard, Aboriginal
 - b) Bilingualism is rife: evident in the number of languages found in most community centres EG Centrelink, local libraries, election flyers
 - c) Pockets of linguistic communities: Footscray, Box Hill, Deer Park, Oakleigh
 - i. Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese
 - d) Historical diversity: waves of immigration EG 60's post-Vietnam War, Gold Rush. How has this influenced our lexical choice/exposure to other cultures?
 - e) The abolishment of the White Australia Policy; new political buzzword was multiculturalism.
 - f) The use of Aus linguistic patterns to express affection Middle Eastern names can be Anglo-fied e.g. Mustafa becomes Muzz.
 - g) Indigenous Aus utilising a creole in Kriol. How is this used in Indig populations?

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For a nation that prides itself on its open mindedness, Australians are judgemental when it comes to how people use language. Discuss some of the varied attitudes towards Australian English.

“Fifty years ago people were saying “Australian English? Substandard.”

(Dr Bruce Moore, editor, The Australian Oxford Dictionary, *Sounds of Aus*, ABC, 2007)

“I would much prefer an English, refined, voice.”

(Heather Pym, born and bred in Adelaide, *Sounds of Aus*, ABC, 2007)

“Banjo Paterson...after four shows was fired because people couldn't stand the way that he spoke, they just said it was just too awful to hear this Australian accent”

(Barry Crocker, performer, *Sounds of Aus*, ABC, 2007)

“...we feel comfortable and not self-conscious any more, we're very happy to express ourselves using the accent that we have”

(Dr Felicity Cox, Phonetician, Macquarie University, *Sounds of Aus*, ABC, 2007)

Notes

- Key words: pride, open mindedness, judgemental, attitudes, Australian English
- Word association: open to change/differences, tolerance, accepting, honour, self-respect, achievement, discrimination, prejudice,
- Paraphrased version: Despite our claims to tolerance and multiculturalism, there exists in Australia heavily rooted prejudice regarding an individual's use of language.
- General ideas:
 - a) Australian English as a multifaceted variety. Within this there exists even greater difference e.g. accents and regional differences though not to the same extent as US.
 - b) Australian values; egalitarianism, tolerance, solidarity, strength.
 - c) Prejudice that exists surrounding the difference accents; how is this reflected in popular culture. Wog Boy is a parody of those who employ the ethnocultural variety. Ja'mie is a satire of the upper echelons of Sydney.
 - d) IELTS level necessary to work; how does our current policy reflect our resistance to openness?
 - e) Internally, for many years there exists a kind of cultural cringe associated with our accent hence the Banjo quote. How has this changed post the 60s and 70s as we began assert our own independence?
 - f) Over and covert prestige continues to exist regarding the use of the standard. Prejudice towards Indigenous population e.g. Beyond Blue bullying campaign targeting indigenous pop.