**Assignment Description: Sociolinguistic Research**

Introduction

For this product you must carry out sociolinguistic research into language attitudes by presenting audio samples of different native or non-native accents of English to your students, and collecting listener judgments using established research methodology. This particular area of sociolinguistics has been chosen because it will be relatively easy for you to collect data from your own pupils and the results of your research will be directly relevant to your teaching.

Carrying out linguistic research involves collecting and analyzing data, which is a very time-consuming activity. It is important, therefore, that you start planning your research immediately. For this reason, you will be asked to report on your progress repeatedly during the course to check whether you are still on schedule.

**Product**

You must write up your research in the form of a research paper of a minimum of 2000 words (not including references, appendices, tables and charts). Your research paper will have the following structure:

**1. Background: ONLY THE BACKGROUND SECTION**

Here you give the theoretical background to your research. In this part you will describe previous research and findings in the area and how these have made you arrive at what you want to study in your current research, including your speaker and/or listener variables. This section concludes with a description of the aims of your research and a statement of your hypothesis/hypotheses.

**2. Method**

This section contains all the information your readers will need in order to understand how you carried out your research and to replicate your research if they choose to. This should include details of the participants, questionnaire design, recordings and the exact procedure of your experiment.

**3. Results**

Your method section described how your data were collected and your results section will display these data. Depending on the type of research you carry out, your results may be displayed in one or more tables and charts. You should design your tables and charts in a way which best displays the interesting trends in your results. You should describe the results here with reference to your tables and charts, but not begin to interpret them yet.

**4. Discussion**

In this section you interpret your findings with reference to the theoretical background and the hypotheses given in the introduction/background, So you should explain how the results are similar to or different from previous research and your expectations. You should also try to account for them, especially if your results are different than expected. Here you can also appraise your research, suggest possible improvements and indicate directions for future research which follow from your study.

**5. References**

Include a list of works cited in APA format with at least 2 sources other than the books used in class.

**6. Appendices**

Include copies of the materials you used for your research that do not fit in the other sections, such as questionnaires, recordings, texts, tapescripts etc.