Monday & Wednesday 11:00 – 12:15  
HSSB 1207

Instructor: Robert Kennedy  
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Course website: http://www.linguistics.ucsb.edu/faculty/rkennedy/ling194_w08

Course Description

This course is going to be a thorough exploration of the relationship between the structure of language and the specialized context of sports. We’ll be looking at the structure of language in a variety of sports-related contexts, including in-game interactions, interviews and press conferences with participants, and journalistic narratives. We'll focus on how the goal of the context shapes the structure of the language usage (and vice versa). We'll also look at phenomena like sport-specific vocabulary, sport metaphor, and nicknaming practices.

Readings

No textbook  
Reading packet available The Alternative Copy Shop:  
6556 Pardall Road, Isla Vista CA  
805-968-1055  
☞ Ask for course reader for Linguistics 194 (Kennedy)

All readings also available through class website

Course Requirements

Assignments  40%  
Midterm  15%  
Final  25%  
Participation  20%

Policies

- Assignments must be typed but will not be accepted via e-mail unless they have been converted to PDF with fonts properly embedded.  
- Dates for exams are not negotiable.  
- Any breach of university policy regarding cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students for appropriate disciplinary action.

updated 1/7/2008
Proposed schedule of Topics and Readings (subject to change)

Week 1 (Jan 7-9): Preliminaries, scope of class, ground rules, Lexicon. Cards, horse races, bat games
Kassing et al. 2004
Glowka et al 2000a, 2000b
Shulman 1996

Week 2 (Jan 14-16): Lexicon cont’d. Field games, adaptive reference
Gillmeister 1996
Sabino 2005

Week 3 (Jan 23): Metaphor
Saporta 1990

Week 4 (Jan 28-30): Metaphor cont’d; Narrative: journalism
Archer and Cohen 1997
Liu and Farha 1996
Ferguson 1983

Week 5 (Feb 4-6): Print journalism, headline tropes
Midterm Feb 6
Romaine 1994

Week 6 (Feb 11-Feb 13): Narrative: broadcast journalism
Reaser 2003
Bowcher 2003
Hansen 1999
Billings et al 2002

Week 7 (Feb 20): Interview
reading TBD

Week 8: (Feb 25-27): Interaction, trash talk, co-operative talk
Heath and Langman 1994
Eveslage and Delaney 1998
Loconto and Roth 2005

Week 9 (Mar 3-5): Nicknames
Kennedy and Zamuner 2005
Skipper 1990
Wilson and Skipper 1990

Week 10: (Mar 10-12): Team names, Wrap up

Final Exam Fri Mar 21, 12:00 – 3:00 pm

updated 1/7/2008