



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

UNIT OUTLINE

HEF219/319
French Linguistics: Pronouns

Semester 1, 2006

www.utas.edu.au/units/HEF219
www.utas.edu.au/french/linguistics/pronoms/pronoms.htm

Convenor & Lecturer:	Dr Bert Peeters Room: HUM 568 Phone: 6226 2344 Email: Bert.Peeters@utas.edu.au
Consultation hours:	Monday 3-4 pm, Wednesday 2-3 pm
Unit description:	Linguistics is the scientific study of human language apprehended through the diversity of human languages. French linguistics uses the tools of linguistics at large to tell us more about the language called French. This unit looks at a number of trends in the way pronouns (esp. personal pronouns) are used in contemporary French: <i>tutoiement</i> versus <i>vouvoiement</i> , the replacement of <i>nous</i> with <i>on</i> and of <i>elles</i> with <i>ils</i> , the increasing status of personal pronouns as verb prefixes, the replacement of <i>qui</i> with <i>que</i> . The aim is to be descriptive rather than prescriptive, explicit rather than vague. While the focus is on modern standard French, there will be occasional digressions into the past or into other varieties of French throughout the world (mainly Swiss and Canadian).
Unit aims and objectives:	To enable students: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. to gain a better understanding of the different ways in which language can be approached (the grammarian's perspective versus the linguist's perspective)2. to develop an increased awareness of the French language as it is spoken today, with special reference to personal and relative pronouns ("If this is French, then what did I learn in school?")3. to familiarise themselves with some of the specific theoretical terms and concepts proper to the field of French and general linguistics4. to acquire some of the tools and insights necessary for the investigation of a problem area of their own choice, something they may want to do either as a Research Project (HEF331) or at Honours level.

Learning outcomes:	Successful completion of this unit will provide students with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. new knowledge, esp. in the areas described in the unit aims and objectives (above) 2. improved reading skills 3. improved communication skills, both oral and written 4. enhanced problem solving skills, through tasks and activities which develop research techniques in linguistics 5. an improved ability to engage in critical thinking
Required texts:	None; recommended and suggested readings are listed on the designated unit web pages (second URL above).
When taught:	Semester 1, 2006 – 2x1-hr seminars weekly (Wednesday, 9-11 am)
Assessment:	Regular assignments (20%), 1,500 essay in French or 2,000-word essay in English (30%), 3-hr exam (50%)

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Sujet
1 mars 2006	Introduction
8 mars 2006 15 mars 2006	<i>Je, me, moi</i> (etc.) : y a-t-il des différences de sens ?
22 mars 2006 29 mars 2006	<i>Tu ou vous</i> : l'embarras du choix
5 avril 2006 12 avril 2006	<i>Nous on vous tu(e)</i> : la guerre (pacifique) des pronoms personnels
26 avril 2006 3 mai 2006	<i>Mes petites cousines, eux, ils savaient...</i> : la guerre (tout aussi pacifique) des sexes
10 mai 2006 17 mai 2006	<i>Thomas il va à l'école; Brigitte elle reste à la maison</i> : pronoms personnels ou préfixes verbaux ?
24 mai 2006 31 mai 2006	Un pronom <i>qu'il</i> veut pas mourir et <i>qu'a</i> encore un avenir...
	Période d'étude : 5 – 9 juin 2006
	Période d'évaluation : 10 – 27 juin 2006

ASSESSMENT

1. Regular assignments

The regular assignments assess learning outcomes 1 to 4 and are worth 20% of the final mark.

Weekly assignments will involve answering three or four questions on a topic related to the lectures of the following week. The answers are to be retrieved from texts or excerpts circulated with the questions. If the document containing the answers is in French, the questions will be asked in English, and you will be expected to answer in English; if the document is in English, the questions will be asked in French, and you will be expected to answer in French. If and when you are expected to write in French, please try to express yourself as correctly as possible. No marks will be deducted for language that is occasionally poor, but you will be penalised if your French is very poor or if the answer is unintelligible. Answers won't have to be very long, but must be to the point. They are to be submitted by 9 am on the day mentioned on the instructions for each assignment. All marks earned will have an equal weight towards the relevant 20% of the unit's final assessment.

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2. Essay

The essay assesses learning outcomes 1 to 5 and is worth 30% of the final mark.

Task description: To write an informative essay on a topic related to the lectures. Comparisons with another language or other languages are allowed. Essays on a topic not mentioned below are subject to prior discussion with and approval by the lecturer (preferably not later than the end of week 4). 200 level students are encouraged to write in French, but may elect to write in English; 300 level students must write in French. Language quality will be taken into account in the same way as for the regular assignments.

Task length: No less than 1,500 and no more than 2,000 words if written in French; no less than 2,000 and no more than 2,500 words if written in English. Quotes are allowed, but must not represent more than 30% of assessable content.

Date due: Monday of swot vac, with a duly completed and signed cover sheet. **Please submit an additional copy via e-mail.** Drafts (hard-copy only) may be submitted for feedback no later than the Friday preceding the mid-semester break, and will be returned no later than the Wednesday following the resumption of classes. Earlier feedback is available on request. Later feedback will be at the discretion of the lecturer.

Sources: specialised literature, dictionaries, grammars, web pages, personal experience...

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- A report on attitudes regarding *tutoiement* and *vouvoiement* among local native speakers of French
- A report on attitudes regarding *tutoiement* and *vouvoiement* among internet users
- *Tutoiement vs vouvoiement* in the French translation of an English novel or play
- The multivalency of *on* in the spoken language: analysis of a mini-corpus
- The multivalency of *on* in interview transcripts published in newspapers or magazines
- The use of *tu, vous, nous, on* (or a subset of these) in the spoken language: analysis of a mini-corpus
- The use of *tu, vous, nous, on* (or a subset of these) in interview transcripts published in newspapers or magazines
- The use of *on, nous* and *nous, on* in the French translation of an English novel or play
- Subject doubling in spoken French: analysis of a mini-corpus
- Relative clauses in spoken French: analysis of a mini-corpus

Assessment criteria:

- Effectiveness of introduction
- Relevance, clarity and coherence of argument
- Effectiveness of conclusion
- Evidence of consultation of relevant sources
- Use of appropriate referencing style
- Language (if excessively poor)

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3. 3-hour examination

The examination assesses learning outcomes 1, 3, 4 and 5 and is worth 50% of the final mark.

Details regarding the format and contents of the final examination will be released in class after the mid-semester break.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As a general rule, classes will be conducted in French, with as little use of English as possible.

Assignment and Essay Presentation

How to Type Accented Characters on the Computers in the School Lab

Access to the School's computer lab (opposite the Arts Lecture Theatre) is by means of a swipe card. More information is available from the School office. The keyboards in the lab have been configured to allow quick typing of accented characters. Here is how you do it:

é	=	' (next to "Enter") followed by 'e'
à, è, ù	=	` (top left corner) followed by vowel
â, ê, î, ô, û	=	^ (above 6) followed by vowel
ü	=	" (quotation mark) followed by vowel
œ	=	Alt-0156 (use the figure pad on the right of the keyboard)
ç	=	Control-Alt-comma

To type a vowel after inverted commas (" and ""), or to close inverted commas after a vowel, insert an extra space, e.g.:

"a	=	"-space-a
u'	=	u-'-space

The inverted comma won't appear until you press the space button.

PS – If you have a PC at home and you want to have the same settings on your own computer, open the Control Panel and find the tab allowing you to change the keyboard lay-out. Select "US-International". You may need to insert your Windows CD-ROM when prompted. Macintosh users who require help should refer to the Helpdesk at the Morris Miller Library.

Referencing Style

In their final essay, students are required to refer to their sources using the author-date system, examples of which may be found in the recommended readings. Bibliographical references are to be listed in a bibliography at the end of the essay, not in footnotes or endnotes (which must be kept to a minimum).

Submission of Assignments and of Final Essay

A signed cover sheet is not required for weekly assignments. Students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with the final essay only. The cover sheet includes a declaration that students have read the University statement on Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism) on the University website at www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism, and that all material submitted is their own work, except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others (see also below). Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office.

Hard copies of all written assignments must be submitted at or before 9am on the due date, either in person or in the appropriate essay box to the left of the School office. Email copies of the final essay may be submitted up to 48 hours later, but must be in every way identical to the hard copy. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments.

Late Submissions

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a counsellor in the case of a serious non-medical reason. Once assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted.

Marking Scale

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

"**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at

<http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/> "

The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.

Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Student Counsellor
- Careers Adviser
- Disability Adviser