Word Up! Learning Community  
Self Interlanguage Phonology Essay (SILP) Directions

For your next essay of the semester, I want you to write a two-to-three-page essay (approximately 500 – 750 words) in which you describe your *interlanguage phonology*, including segmental and prosodic features. You should use article 2 from the learning community reading booklet, chapter 6 from the linguistics textbook, and the additional course textbook *Pronunciation Contrasts* to get your analytic information. The purpose of this essay is for you to practice your *phonetic transcription and analytic skills*, using yourself as the subject of analysis.

The first step of this project is to use *Pronunciation Contrasts* to make predictions about your IL segmental phonology: which sounds in English should cause you the most difficulty? Choose the top two or three consonants and two or three vowels to focus on. Based on your focus phonemes, you will create a minimal pair word list, using the examples provided in *Pronunciation Contrasts*, that you will bring to class on Thurs. Sept. 28. Using your word list, you will work with a partner to collect data about your own pronunciation. After gathering the data, you will analyze it so that you can write your paper, which is due in class Tues. Oct. 3.

In addition to segmental phonology, you must discuss briefly difficulties that you have with prosodic phonology: which prosodic features cause you the most difficulty in English? However, instead of collecting data about this area of your IL phonology, you should think about this on your own, reading and talking aloud and thinking about your prosodic phonology. Focus on only two or three areas that cause you the most difficulty.

Your paper should be written in standard essay format and style, which follows the guidelines provided in the course syllabus. Your essay should have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. In your introduction, you should introduce your essay, its purpose, and its organizational pattern. Your body sections should focus first on predictions of your IL phonology, next on the analysis of your segmental phonology, and lastly an analysis of your prosodic phonology. If it will help you to explain your IL phonology more clearly, then you can provide a chart, table or graph of your phonological features. In your conclusion, you should focus on completing your essay. Try to use any concepts or vocabulary that you have learned so far in the learning community.

You don’t need to do any outside research or provide any references; in this essay I’m looking simply for an informative description of your IL phonology.