Language Support Instruction for UC Transfer Students

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UCI Transfer Students

- 1,878 new transfer students in Fall 2010, this makes the largest transfer cohort ever at UCI

- Compose 25% of new students, 20% of undergraduates, and 35% of upper-division students

- 94% from Community Colleges: Orange Coast, Irvine Valley, Pasadena City, Saddleback, Santa Monica, El Camino, Cerritos, Fullerton, De Anza

- 1% from CSU

- 2 % from UC

- 3% Other/Unknown
Characteristics of the Transfer Student

- Average Age = 22.4 yrs
- Average transfer college GPA = 3.32
- Class level = 92% juniors, 5% seniors
- Social Sciences, Social Ecology and Humanities are the most popular entering academic majors
- Majority are from Orange County
- 59% of transfers are first generation college attendees, come from low income families, or both
# Language Spoken at Home

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2006</th>
<th>Fall 2007</th>
<th>Fall 2008</th>
<th>Fall 2009</th>
<th>Fall 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Only</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English &amp; Another</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Another Only</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Transfer Enrollment</td>
<td>1,619</td>
<td>1,448</td>
<td>1,355</td>
<td>1,748</td>
<td>1,878</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Office of Assessment and Research Studies, 2011
University of California, Irvine
Academic English/ESL Transfer Students

- Transfer students who need additional language support instruction to assist them with the rigorous writing demands of upper-division courses
- Long term residents, international students, and generation 1.5
- Working students
- 20% have equivalent English proficiency to that of AE/ESL entering freshmen who have to take 3 quarters of English support instruction before entering WR 39A/P (Freshman English)
- No placement test is required of incoming transfer students from CA community colleges under the Master Plan for Higher Education
Upper Division Writing Requirements for UC Irvine:

- **Campus Writing Coordinator**: Upper Division Writing requirements

- Preamble from the UCI General Catalog: *Because of the importance of visual, oral, electronic and written communication in every academic discipline, in the professions, and in public life, the University is committed to developing a variety of communication abilities in students at all levels in all areas.*
Humanities 139W: Advanced Academic Writing

- Junior-level course designed to help ESL transfer students develop the academic English they require to meet the academic literacy demands of upper-division courses

- NOTE: Students can, without significant support, comprehend and evaluate the gist of complex texts across a range of types and disciplines, and they can construct arguments and convey intricate or multifaceted information without much linguistic accuracy. However, doing so will not enable them to succeed in upper-division writing courses at UCI.
HUM 139W Diagnostic Essay Prompt

- Students are given one hour to read an excerpt and write an essay
- This diagnostic is read by instructor and assessed for correct placement
- Students whose writing exhibits weak language and academic discourse are encouraged to take Grammar for Writing course, HUM 29

**Sample Prompt:** Write an essay in which you discuss why poverty and class inequality exist in the U.S. today. To develop your essay, include details from Gans’ excerpt, your own experience, and your observation of others.
Writing Sample 1:

Poverty and class inequality still exist in all over the world even in the richer country too. U.S. most of lower class (worker, immigrant, and poor) voted Obama U.S. president because they believe he could help them to escape the poverty. Nowadays, money and rich choose their position because of Capitalism. Make rich to be rich, and poor to be poor.

Poverty gives down to their next generation. Most parents said if you want to be rich and success in your life, you must study hard. For instant, one toy store has luxurious toy which is over $100 and very crowded for little kids. Someone who has rich parents, they always get toys and experience with better environment as private school, and etc. However, there are some kids to buy at K-mart, Target which is about $10 dollars. Those kids have different environment because different life of starting line give them to be rich and poor. Poverty and rich serve them to different life.
Writing Sample 2:

First lack of education causes poverty and class inequality. Education trains people to become better leaner, skillful worker with up-to-date information. Some education prepare workers with basic in field knowledge, some education give additional new changes on the topic people are interested in. Worker with no such education will not be able to fit in fast-changing firm, which will cause unemployment. In Gans point of view, "dramatic shifts in the domestic and world economy, which have turned more and more skilled and semi skilled worker into surplus labor", those worker who turns to surplus labor are not skilled enough. This means those fullskill worker, which means experienced and educated workers do not turn into surplus labor. As known, losing job means losing income, falls below poverty lone and turning into lower class.
Writing Sample 3:

Although the United States is one of the wealthiest nations of the world, a significant part of its population does not reap the benefits. In large cities such as Los Angeles or New York, besides all the skyscraper and fancy shopping mall are ghettos and homeless shelter, images of another type of American—the poor. Poverty is caused by many factors, but these four are probably the core ones: decreasing labor market opportunities, increasing illegal immigration, reducing anti-poverty programs, and fragmentation of family structure.

The first reason of poverty in the U.S. is the decreasing pool of jobs available for middle class Americans. Fewer jobs are offered to them due to the trend of outsourcing work abroad. From an article I read in Newsweek, approximately 1 million manufacturing jobs are outsourced each year to different countries, mostly China. With the process of globalization, the world is getting closer in term of production. Assembly lines nowadays are crossed from one nation to another, from one corner of the world to another.
General Weaknesses: Expository Language

Discourse:
- Academic writing does not exhibit the language, organization, development, substance, and style that are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience

- Writing shows a lack of cohesion (including the use of synonyms, repetition, pronouns, transition words, word families, and demonstrative pronouns)

- Writing shows inappropriate use of quotations and reported speech to support claims

- Writing shows an inconsistent pattern of contextual support
Weaknesses: Language

Vocabulary
- academic words
- discipline-specific words
- collocations

Grammar
- sentence structure
- the verb system
- the noun system
- articles and determiners
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Advice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cs</td>
<td>comma splice</td>
<td>I had a question, I asked the professor.</td>
<td><a href="http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/runons.htm">http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/runons.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>frag</td>
<td>fragment</td>
<td>If you were a scientist.</td>
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<tr>
<td>id</td>
<td>idioms/set expressions</td>
<td>He was involved on the math projects.</td>
<td><a href="http://preplink.php">preplink.php</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>mixed</td>
<td>mixed constructions</td>
<td>He decided to go to school is because he felt better.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nipissingu.ca/english/hornbook/mixcon.htm">http://www.nipissingu.ca/english/hornbook/mixcon.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>num</td>
<td>number</td>
<td>He finished his researches, but now he needs more equipments and times.</td>
<td><a href="http://numberex.php">numberex.php</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://artlink.php">artlink.php</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>sp</td>
<td>spelling</td>
<td>Achieving dreams is important.</td>
<td><a href="http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/1/">http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/1/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s-v</td>
<td>subject-verb agreement</td>
<td>Everybody have traditions.</td>
<td><a href="http://svlink.php">svlink.php</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>tense</td>
<td>I will be in class yesterday.</td>
<td><a href="http://vtlink.php">vtlink.php</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vb</td>
<td>verb form</td>
<td>He is enroll in French, and he is try to added another class. He will has to spend more time study.</td>
<td><a href="http://passivelink.php">passivelink.php</a></td>
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<td></td>
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<td><a href="http://verbformlink.php">verbformlink.php</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>word form</td>
<td>We will become independence thinkers and writers.</td>
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<td><a href="http://typicalsuffixes5.pdf">typicalsuffixes5.pdf</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>ww</td>
<td>wrong word</td>
<td>He was very tired that he left.</td>
<td><a href="http://iteslj.org/quizzes/0101/jb-verystoos.html">http://iteslj.org/quizzes/0101/jb-verystoos.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>??</td>
<td>not understandable</td>
<td>It’s like which that you need.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sharedvisions.com/explore/english/english.html">http://www.sharedvisions.com/explore/english/english.html</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Language Support

Verb Tense Activities:
- Text Analysis- identify how writers use a specific verb tense and shift markers in a given text

- Use various texts (journals, newspapers, blogs, fiction, essays, students’ own writing) (Frodesen, 2010)

- Authentic texts allow students to experience rich, academic language

From Anna Quindlen’s “Blessed Is the Full Plate” Newsweek, 2007

One of the most majestic dining rooms in New York City is in the Church of the Holy Apostles. After the landmark building was nearly destroyed by fire in 1990, the Episcopal parish made the decision not to replace the pews so that the nave could become a place of various uses. There are traditional Sunday services, of course, and the gay and lesbian synagogue on Friday evenings. And every weekday more than a thousand people eat lunch at round tables beneath 12-foot stained-glass windows and a priceless Dutch pipe organ.
Verb Tense (cont.)

- Students work at identifying tenses in editing exercise drawn from their own writing
- See handout
- Reinforce structures with guided feedback
Number Concerns in Academic Writing
Number Use Activities

- Review articles, subject-verb agreement, and commonly used (and misused) non-count nouns that create problems

- Discuss the use of generic examples in singular and plural

  An elephant is gray.  Elephants are gray.

- Show that it is less cumbersome to use generic plural

  A student does his or her homework.  Students do their homework.

- Review and repair samples with student number errors, collectively and then in pairs
Identify Number Problems

1. Education trains people to become better worker.

2. Those worker who turns into surplus labor are not skilled enough.

3. Poverty and class inequality still exist all over the world, even in the richer country, too.

4. Some cultures have very strict rules about financial discussion.

5. In large cities such as Los Angeles or New York, besides all the skyscraper and fancy shopping mall are ghettos and homeless shelter.
Number Problems
Instructions: Find and correct at least one problem with number in each of the following sentences.

1. Three customers walked out of the store without upgrading their phone and did not spend more money.

2. The economic system depends on the ideology of buyer and seller.

3. Most goods and services are provided by different companies, which are owned by the rich.

4. Especially after the invention of credit cards, a consumer started to spend more than they had.

5. Other tablet PC companies cannot show their product to the market.

6. American economic systems are imbalanced between industries and human.

7. America has to help the poor country with better life.

8. Because consumerism constantly traps customers to buy new goods for the sake of keeping up with the latest trend, it is not easy for a consumer to settle for just the goods they currently possess.
Referencing Outside Texts

1. A fundamental aspect of academic writing is research and citations. Students need to learn to use specific format styles such as MLA or APA and know where to find updates.

2. Students need to become familiar with the patterns of citing appropriate outside support in their essays.

3. They should be able to summarize articles and ideas and credit the authors.

4. They should be able paraphrase ideas, cite the source and provide page numbers when appropriate.

5. They should be able to quote directly, cite the source and provide page numbers.

6. They should know how to create and edit a Works Cited or Reference page and how to edit for details.
Citation corrections with the class.

1. According to the article of John Brown and Fredrick Jones article “Don’t Buy Kidneys,” it states, “each day, more people receive an organ transplant than die on the wait list.” (Brown and Jones).

2. In the article of Brown and Jones he point out that “half the survey respondents believed organ donors should be paid.”

3. In Thomas Blake’s article “Let me die,” she describes a typical family dilemma when a fatal illness is diagnosed.

4. By James D. Watson, in his article “All for the good,” insists that we should not be afraid of new technology that might be “used for evil as well as good” (Watson 1999).
Citation practice with a partner.

1. According to Watson, he says that “The experiments which have clear defined future benefits cannot be postponed” (Watson 533).

2. At first he mentions that “the death rate among the fetuses and offspring produced by cloning is much higher than natural reproduction (Wilmut 535) and he feel upset for the continuance of the tragedy.

3. According to “Type of Biotech Corn Found to Be Safe to a Butterfly Species” by Carol Kaesuk Yoon, a science writer works for New York Times, gives and example that genetically modified foods harm the other organisms.

4. In Silent Spring by Rachel Carson state that pesticide is poison to human not just bug.
Modal Use in Academic Writing

Modal Use Activities:

- Explain academic writing requires students to analyze, synthesize, discuss, interpret, explore, and expand on texts.
- Discuss forms and functions of modals (shades of meaning, varying degrees of possibility or certainty about a statement, credibility).
- Show sample paragraph and bring attention to modal use in second paragraph.
Modals
Functions and Forms

- Add meaning/”mood” to verbs
- Show degree of certainty/credibility
- Tense-time reference
Conclusions from a study

While the findings of this study seem in line with the studies that have come before, there were a number of concerning issues. First, surveys should be administered to people acting as participants, not by friends posting as participants **in order to** diminish the number of “prank” responses. In life, some participants are “pranksters” so **is** chalked up to individual differences. Second, it **is** more reliable to have another rater...To be more useful, a study of this nature **needs** further, and more prudent research.
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Exercise

Use a modal verb in place of the underlined word and phrases. You might need to reconstruct the sentence rather than substitute words.

**Example:** It is certain that the sales tax is going to increase next year.

**Answer:** Sales tax will increase next year.

1. The scientist found it impossible to present her analysis because she had not collected all her data.

2. There is a low possibility that the shipment arrived yesterday afternoon.

3. It is quite likely that locally-grown tomatoes are available at the farmer’s market.

4. It is surely not possible that she is the person who sent that letter!

5. He is likely to see benefits from his exercise program.
Answer Key

1. The scientist couldn’t present her analysis…
2. The shipment might have arrived yesterday afternoon.
3. Locally grown tomatoes should be available.
4. She can’t be the person who sent that letter!
5. He should see benefits from his exercise program.
6. (Raimes, 2004)
Student Resources

- Transfer Student Center (TSC)  [www.transfercounseling.uci.edu/](http://www.transfercounseling.uci.edu/)
- Learning and Academic Resource Center (LARC) [www.larc.uci.edu/](http://www.larc.uci.edu/)
- Writing and Library Peer Research Tutors [www.writing.uci.edu/peertutors.html](http://www.writing.uci.edu/peertutors.html)
- Program in Academic English/ESL [www.humanities.uci.edu/esl/](http://www.humanities.uci.edu/esl/)
References


