

September 22, 2003

TAKE-HOME EXAM

ESSAY TITLE: “PEDAGOGICAL GRAMMAR” — SCOPE, GOALS, AND USEFULNESS

Your task under this title will be to evaluate pedagogical grammar from a variety of perspectives. It should **address all the keywords** of the title — how you do this, or where you put your emphasis is up to you. This task does not have one correct answer — it offers **a lot of potentially interesting discussions**. Below I give you a number of **suggestions for your emphasis**, but you don't have to follow them all, nor do you have to follow them at all if you don't like to. They are just meant as some help to get you started.

Note that since there is no one answer, you will have to do not only the writing, but the legwork as well. Here I expect you to **research the topic to the best of your possibilities**. You may draw from the **class material** (teaching, handouts, readings), but not need to. There are many other ways, such as the **internet** and further **books** from the library — and most of all, **common sense**. This is an exercise in **applying knowledge** gathered from the class **to a new situation**.

Since there are so many ways of tackling the topic, I also leave it up to you to **write the essay by yourself or in cooperation**. You can cooperate with as many classmates as you like, as long as all your names are listed as authors. Naturally, the length of your essay must be adjusted to the number of co-authors: I suggest a single-author essay to consist of **at least 1,500 words**; for multi-authored papers, the alternative rule of thumb is **1,000 words per author**. Regardless of whether you're working alone or in collaboration: **back up your statements with arguments!**

Here are some suggestions for your essay:

- pedagogical grammar as (i) a *grammatical tradition* or as (ii) a *university course*
(i): alongside or opposed to e.g. traditional, structuralist, or generative grammars
(ii): who and when it should be taught to, how that should be done, and so forth
- what is pedagogical grammar, what could it be, maybe even what should it be?
- who does it, who is it for, why do people pursue it, or even would want to do so?
- how does it compare to other approaches, what are its strengths or weaknesses?
- discuss what it does for us, whether it's useful or completely useless, and so on
- education: is pedagogical grammar necessary/useful — if so how, and for whom?
- focus on teaching: what needs to be taught, how so, course length, material etc.
- another angle: develop a full curriculum for a course with a sensible lesson plan
- yet another twist: critically evaluate/compare needs you see with current course

FORMAL SPECIFICATIONS

- ❶ Due date for handing in your paper is **12pm on Monday, October 27** in my office.
- ❷ The take-home exam **must be typewritten** — I do not accept a handwritten paper.
- ❸ Length: **at least 4 pages** (with 1.25” margins, 12pt font, exactly 18pt line spacing).
- ❹ Your paper must be written like a real academic essay and include a **bibliography**.