



Cambridge International AS & A Level

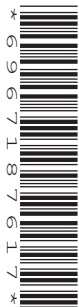
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9093/42

Paper 4 Language Topics

May/June 2022

2 hours 15 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A: English in the world**Question 1**

Read the following text, which is an article published on the New Zealand website *Stuff* in 2020.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the changing use of English in the world. You should refer to specific details from the text as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of English in the world. [25]

How Māori and English languages mix in the modern world

In the world of linguists, there's one constant rule: language changes.

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kia ora – good luck

Section B: Language and the self

Question 2

Read the following text, which is an extract from an article published on *The Conversation* website in 2018.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the ways in which language can shape and reflect how individuals think. You should refer to specific details from the text as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of Language and the self. [25]

Future tense: how the language you speak influences your willingness to take climate action

Does the language we speak influence how much we care about the environment? Our new research suggests that the answer is yes.

Speakers of languages without a distinct future tense, such as Finnish, care more about the environment than speakers of languages with future tense marking, such as French or English. Their respective countries also have stricter climate change policies. 5

This is surprising. You might suppose that different languages are just different ways of encoding the same information. Surely when an English speaker says 'It will snow tomorrow' and a German speaker says 'Es schneit morgen', they are saying exactly the same thing. Why should it matter which symbols we use? 10

The answer may lie in the fact that language is deeply intertwined with culture and reflects an entire way of perceiving the world, a so-called *Weltanschauung* (world view).

The Whorfian view of language was for a long time met with suspicion by linguists and cognitive scientists. But it has recently experienced a resurgence. Excitingly, it has now reached other sciences, such as economics. 15

Whether languages come with their own world view is an elusive question that has been the springboard for more concrete concerns from economists: does language influence tangible outcomes like saving rates or the representation of women in the labour market? Again, the answer seems to be yes. 20

Our research shows that the way in which a language refers to the future has a bearing on environmental behaviour and policies.

Being present

Some languages, such as Finnish or German, don't require speakers to talk about the future in a distinct way. Rather than saying 'We *shall* go to the movies tomorrow', they treat tomorrow as if it were today: 'We *go* to the movies tomorrow.' These languages are described as 'present-tensed'. 25

On the other side are languages, such as English or French, that do require a distinct future tense marking. These are called 'future-tensed' languages.

Our research shows that speakers of present-tensed languages are more likely to engage in green behaviour. 30

What's the explanation for this?

There are two potential mechanisms by which these effects might arise.

First, it may be that language merely reflects these societies' underlying cultures. Put simply, some cultures care more about the future, and these cultures may also be more likely to speak a present-tensed language (which treats the future in the same way as today).

35

The second possibility is that language may itself influence our thinking and behaviour. Talking about the future as if it were today might make the future feel closer. Humans have a known tendency to 'discount' the future – we'd rather have \$100 today than in a year's time.

40

So by making the future seem closer, present-tensed languages might make people care more about it. This in turn might make them more willing to bear present costs, such as higher prices for green products, for the sake of future benefits like avoiding climate change.

45

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