

Academic Presentation – Language Change

Task 1:

“French will be the first language of Africa ... perhaps the world. “ (President Manuel Macron, 2017 on a visit to Burkina Faso) (Link 1)

Talk about this quote by Macron and discuss, whether and how French could become such a dominant language in other language areas.

Task 2:

Go to the following [link](#) and read the text: Which arguments does the article mention for and against French as a “lingua franca”?

What is/was the situation in your mother tongue? Are/were there also strong influences from other languages? How do you see the future of your language? Discuss.

Task 3:

Watch the [video](#) on YouTube :

Take notes and prepare a short presentation (3 minutes) about the following points:

- History of your language, influence of other languages on your language
- What is the consequence of language change on your language?
- Current influences on British English come for example from American English. Which languages are influencing your language?
- Is language change positive or negative in your opinion?

Under the following [link](#) you will find an overview of phrases that may help you with your presentation.

Task 4:

Present your presentations from task 3 to each other and take notes during your partner’s presentation. Give constructive feedback to each other.

Are there similarities between the language history of your mother tongue and the history of your partner’s language?

Were there any surprises in the content of your partner’s presentation? If yes, what was it and why was it surprising?

The structure of your presentation was clear/easy to follow/coherent.

The pace varied/carried me away/was just right/was slow/was fast.

Your voice was pleasant /strong / a bit low.

Your style was articulated/funny/metaphorical/exemplary/vivid/abstract/academic.

The overall impression is authentic/dedicated/personal.

Sources

- Link 1 <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/dec/02/french-language-world-lingua-franca-emmanuel-macron-optimism-grandiose>
- Link 2 <https://academic-englishuk.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Presentation-Phrases-AEUK.pdf>
- Video 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsRoW6pb0Gw>