Linguistics 384
Homework Extra Credit

DUE: Wednesday, November 30, 2005

This extra credit assignment will apply to your overall homework grade.

1. (10 points)

   Interview someone who has taken or is currently taking a language course here at OSU, (possibly yourself).

   (a) Determine what stage of L2 acquistion they are at and explain how you determined this.

   (b) With them, identify a problematic area in their language learning.

   (c) Design (i.e. sketch out) an iCALL exercise that would address their need. What technology would you need? What level of users do you expect? What kind of exercise best addresses their particular problem? What kind of feedback do they prefer? If you're having trouble getting started, take a look at Heift's exercises and the system we looked at in class as a starting point.

   (d) You will also want to think about presentation issues. Go to:

   > http://web.uvic.ca/hcmc/rnd/weblang

   and look at the different kinds of exercises and graphics they use. (You may have already looked at this in class.) Does this give you any new thoughts about your proposed exercise? Does it look like the exercise you propose will be easy to implement?

2. (10 points)

   A lot of warnings about science and technology use is couched in science fiction terms. So, for example, the movies *The Matrix* and *2001: A Space Odyssey* warn against dependence on computers; *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* warns against the production of atomic bombs; *The Terminator* highlights what happens when robots go bad. And so on.

   Unfortunately, rarely does an author rail against the dangers of language technology. We don't usually see a movie displaying the dangers of spell checkers or machine translation systems or whatever.

   Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to sketch out a plot for a story (or book or movie) warning against the use of some language technology that we have discussed this quarter.

   NON-FICTION ALTERNATIVE. Okay, this isn't a creative writing class. So, if you don't want to do that, you have the option of describing in detail what you see as a potential danger of any of the technologies we've discussed.