

## LANGUAGE CHANGE

**This library Assignment has two parts.**

### **Part 1:**

First, you'll be looking at popular sources that talk about language change. What has been happening to English? Find three sources in popular publications that comment on the English language. Two of these must be print sources (e.g. a newspaper editorial or a magazine article); the third could be either a print source or a website.

- a. one should be from the 1960s or earlier;
- b. one should be from the 1980s;
- c. one should be from 2000 or more recent.

Provide appropriate bibliographic citation for your sources.

**(Part 1 is due 11/4)**

### **Part 2:**

In this part of the assignment, you're going to do some research of your own on language change. Following are words and expressions we use in everyday American English. For each of these words and expressions, answer the following questions.

- a. Where did each come from?
- b. Has it always had the same meaning?
- c. Does it mean the same thing to English speakers worldwide?
- d. Has it always been "English"—that is, did it have its origin in English or an ancestral English form or was it borrowed? If the word was borrowed, from where was it borrowed?
- e. To what other words or expressions in modern English is it related?

deer	starve
animal	corn
gushy	OK
scuba	kleenex
honcho (as in "Head Honcho")	pagan
shirt	skirt

pain (noun)	pajamas
apron	fellow
gullible	flash in the pan
three sheets to the wind	to lose something lock, stock, and barrel
skillet	pea
homely	only
noise	canvas
candy	boycott
guarantee	warranty
saved by the bell	awesome
wicked	compute

**Be prepared to discuss your findings and the following questions in class.**

**1. Which word(s) or phrase(s) was most challenging?**

**2. What do the following abbreviations mean?**

**Ofris OHG v. obs. Gk Skt IE inf. cf. c. n.**

**3. Discuss three different kinds of dictionaries.**

**(Part 2 is due 11/5)**