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Propositions belonging to the thesis
Grassroots Prescriptivism
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1. Although people of all social backgrounds engage in discussions on linguistic prescriptivism, the greatest barrier to participation is nativeness.
2. Prescriptivism from below has garnered little research attention in comparison to institutionalised or top-down prescriptivism.
3. Language users are not passive recipients of prescriptive rules, but active participants in matters of linguistic prescriptivism.
4. The empirical analysis of grassroots prescriptive efforts in letters to the editor confirms Leslie Milroy's (2001) statement that Britain and the US are two countries separated by different language ideologies.
5. In many respects, twenty-first-century prescriptivism represents a continuation of the 250-year-old prescriptive tradition documented in usage guides.
6. While traditional usage shibboleths may become obsolete, new usage problems take their place.
7. Prescriptivism, like language itself, undergoes change over time.
8. Complaints focusing on spelling and punctuation are examples *par excellence* of twenty-first-century prescriptivism. Syntactic changes, which arguably remain unnoticed among language users, are rarely addressed in metalinguistic discussions.
9. The analysis of online usage comments shows that people offering seemingly logical justifications for their arguments and presenting themselves as knowledgeable on a certain topic should not necessarily be trusted.
10. Linguists researching prescriptivism are required to adhere to prescriptive rules like everyone else.
11. Doing research on prescriptivism improves one's editing skills.
12. Teaching is the best way to learn.