

Recipes, Board Games, and Experiments (Part II)

Instructor: Yangchen Roy

NLN 101 Language & Writing Skills-2 (Week 6)

1 The procedure of Jane Elliot's experiment

1. Based on what you have concluded about the language of giving instruction and reporting on instructions, create two texts on Jane Elliot's experiments. **Use your free written text and the video to make the writing process easier.**
 - (a) The first text should dictate, like a recipe, the steps of the experiment.
 - (b) The second should report the procedure of the experiment as done by her. You are an "outsider" summarising the method of her experiment.

1.1 Creating a set of instructions for an experiment

- Recall the kind of sentences that appear in direct instructions (Hint: Think about the verb form you get in direct instructions).

Common verb forms found in English

A verb form is the shape (written/spoken) of the verb. For instance, EAT is a verb, and its verb forms are 'eats', 'ate', 'eaten', 'eating'

- (1) **V**
- (2) **V-s**
- (3) **V-ed (this may generate "irregular" verb forms like 'was', 'ate', 'drank', 'found', 'bought' a.o.)**
- (4) **V-ing**
- (5) **V-en**

- Now use the cues in the instruction writing guide below to write up the instructions.
1. First, divide your classroom into two groups based on the color of students' eyes.
 2. Next, tell the students that
 3. Further,
 4. Observe
 5. On the next day
 6. Now,
 7. Notice

1.2 Reporting the method of an experiment

- You will now once again write about Jane Elliot's experiment, but this time you will report the steps of the experiment. Refer to the language used in the excerpts from Parisse (2008) and Chien & Wexler (1985) in last week's handout to help you here. Recall what you learnt about the predominant verb-forms in these.

Passives

Passives are a special construction that allow us to reduce the importance of the subject (literally making it passive/a non-player) of the sentence and enhance the important of the object.

(6) Active construction

$$\overbrace{\textit{The mayor}}^{\textit{Subject}} \textit{ inaugurated } \overbrace{\textit{the statue of the martyr}}^{\textit{Object}}$$

(7) Passive construction

The statue of the martyr was inaugurated *by the mayor*

The passive has the following structure in English

(WILL) (HAVE) BE V_{-en/-ed}form

- Check this template using the following passive sentences.

- (8) A mango was eaten
- (9) A mango had been eaten
- (10) A mango was being eaten
- (11) A mango will have been eaten

- Start your text using the following sentence.
1. The classroom is divided into
 2. The teacher makes up a set of rules to The blue-eyed students are given certain Additionally, the brown eyed students are not allowed
 3. The students are told
 4. Following this, the students go off to
 5. The teacher asks