

PJE Year 13 English Language Class

Dear All,

Firstly, remind yourself of the differing attitudes towards English Language: Prescriptive and Descriptive. Read the attached word document: 'Attitudes towards variation and change'

Then, print off and read the article by Neil Tweedie – '*Don't be a plank. Read this and get really clueful*'. If you come across any new words, please look them up so you understand them.

Consider:

- Is Tweedie a prescriptivist or descriptivist? How can you tell? (1 paragraph)
- Choose 3 neologisms and explain why Tweedie objects to them (1 paragraph – try for a cluster of similar neologisms)
- What can you theorise about the process of change leading to these neologisms (there are clues in the text)- (1 para)
- Decide whether you agree with Tweedie's views or not, and why. (1 para)
- Can you create a counter argument to Tweedie's view that many of the new words are "ugly"? (e.g give a reason why Tweedie is wrong...

Write one paragraph per bullet point please, with appropriate linguistic terms used.

There is further information about Language Change on the Andrew Moore website (google Andrew Moore and you will find it). Go to the section on Language Change – you will only need to read the subsection: Language Change and Standardization.