

Assignment 1: *Like* Usage

AND I WAS LIKE

AND HE WAS LIKE

AND I WAS LIKE

AND SHE WAS LIKE

(the speech impediment of the 21st century)

marc johns

axonsandsynapses:

yuletidekarkat:

dannygayhealani:

creatingaquietmind:

the speech impediment of the 21st century (by Marc Johns)

I'll xxxx you up buddy this is not a speech impediment it's linguistic evolution!! the existence of the phrase "Aisha was like" allows the speaker to convey whatever Aisha said without making the listener assume they're quoting Aisha directly while still maintaining the FEELING of what Aisha said.

ie, Aisha said she didn't want to go out with me VERSUS Aisha was like, "I'd rather kiss a Wookiee".

the addition of "XYZ was like" lets the speaker be more expressive and efficient and it is a totally valid method of communicating information!!

With the way language has evolved, this is one of the few ways I can even think of to express in casual

conversation what someone said.

"So I said to Aisha," is certainly used, but if you remove the "so," which implies casual tone ("and" can be used in the same way), you get "I said to Aisha," which is really formal in most English dialects/variants. I don't know about all, but in New England dialects, you sound like you're reading aloud from a novel.

"I told Aisha," is really only used when you continue to describe, not tell, what you told her. Ex: "I told Aisha that James was too punk for her" works while, "I told Aisha, 'James is too punk for you'" crosses the line back into formality of the "I said."

Things like "I asked" or "I answered [with]" are similar levels of casual and efficient to the "So, I said [or say, as many conversations about the past take place in present tense anyway, as if the speaker is giving a play-by-play in the moment]" but are specific to only certain situations.

"I was like, 'Marc Johns, what is your obsession with restoring archaic speech patterns and interfering with the natural progression of English from complex to efficient?'" envelopes all of these easily and is accessible and crisp, and allows for more variations on inflection than the others.

Of course, James is probably like, "I already said that." But eh, I tried adding on.

#linguistics #a.k.a. how I learned to stop worrying and love the evolution of the English language without being a discriminatory elitist jerk (via crystalandrock)

Step 1: You are to collect as many examples as you can by observing REAL language usage around you. (Movies, TV shows, YouTube, blog plots, etc.) You must have a minimum of 20 examples, none of which should use *like* to refer to an emotion.

We do not want ANY examples where *like* refers to a positive emotion or feeling, such as:

I like linguistic courses.

Instead, we are interested in places where *like* might have some other meaning or function. For example:

I was like you tell her to leave.

You should feel free to collect examples that might be frowned upon by some speakers (especially those with strong prescriptivist leanings). If you wish to add information about age, ethnicity, gender, race, etc., that would be terrific. For example, do you ever find speakers in their fifties using an example such as this: *I saw like fifty dogs there.*

Step 2: Classify them by what they mean. After you collect your examples, sort them according to meaning/function of *like* in each sentence.

Step 3: Decide what the general meaning is for each group of *like* usages that you found.

Turn in:

- In the notes section, present your sorted list of usages of like along with the general meaning for each group.
- The essay portion will be your formal write-up on the ideas that you want to present as your answer. In this section, be sure to use concrete examples, and make some generalizations or predictions concerning your observation. As a formal write up, you must have this section with an original title, your header, and cohesive essay style structure. In this section, you must also have at least 500 words or more on the topic (failure to do so will result in your earning a zero for that individual assignment).

In the essay portion, write about what you found, as well as whether anything surprised you (i.e., did you note older people using *like* the same as younger people, was *like* used in a situation you did not expect, etc.)

FOCUS on the following:

- Do these relate to the tumblr post? How?

- What is your reaction to the tumblr, using your specific examples?

NOTE: This does not require any research. Use your own intuition about what the differences in meaning might be. You may consult others outside the class as to what their intuitions are, but you must complete this assignment on your own. If you look up the meaning somewhere, be sure to cite the reference.