

**SWEUS**

MASARYK JULY 2018



# Levels of Formality

Grollman Global English (KvK 64484319)  
mlgrollman59@gmail.com



# IN THIS WORKSHOP

- Elements of Formal English
- Informal to Formal
- A useful resource
- **Activity 1:** Paired discussions
- Two more useful resources
- **Activity 2:** A group debate
- Conclusion

# ELEMENTS OF FORMAL ENGLISH

Levels of  
Formality

- The “you” problem
- Would, could, should
- The role of the passive
- Clear and concise
- Who is your audience?
- Redundant language

# FORMAL VERSUS INFORMAL (1)

- ❑ **The effect of the media (TV, Internet, Film, Social media)**
- ❑ The SMS / WhatsApp generation
- ❑ English invading first language
- ❑ Cultural sensitivities
  
- ❑ **Factors affecting formality**
- ❑ lack of experience
- ❑ Fear
- ❑ Gap-fillers / redundant language
- ❑ poor planning or language research

## FORMAL VERSUS INFORMAL (2)

- ❑ WhatsApp versus Academic English
- ❑ *Thanks for coming to my presentation*
- ❑ I would like to welcome you to this presentation
- ❑ *I want to start with .....*
- ❑ I would like to begin by .....
- ❑ *I'm gonna end with .....*
- ❑ I would like to conclude by .....
- ❑ *Yeah, well I think you're wrong.*
- ❑ I wish to take issue with you on that point.
- ❑ *Lots of people think that .....*
- ❑ It is widely believed that .....

# A USEFUL RESOURCE

- **Discussion Phrases**
- Introductions
- Handing over
- Agreement / disagreement
- Conclusions

# ACTIVITY ONE

Levels of  
Formality

## Paired discussions

- 1) Choose a subject
- 2) Who is for and against?
- 3) Choose some phrases
- 4) Give each other feedback

## TWO MORE USEFUL RESOURCES

- Informal to Formal language
- Transition words and phrases
- **CHOOSE A FEW!!**



## ACTIVITY TWO

Levels of  
Formality

# AMNESTY DEBATE

- 1) Read about the candidates
- 2) Small group discussions
- 3) Reporting back
- 4) Plenary session

## CONCLUSION

*What can you take  
from this workshop?*

A bit of (voluntary) homework