

WRITING AND LITERACY



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First lecture
October 8

COURSE PROGRAM

- Introduction (today)
- History and typology of writing systems (15.+22.10.)
- **ATTENTION: NO CLASS ON OCTOBER 29** (extra reading instead)
- Written vs. spoken language (05.11.)
- Approaches to literacy (12., 19., 26.11.)
- **MID-TERM ASSESSMENT (03.12.)**
- Writing and literacy in society; practical and symbolic values; writing and religion (10.+17.12.)
- Writing, literacy, and endangered languages (07.01.)
- Acquisition of writing and literacy (14.+21.01.)
- Summary and final assessment (28.01.)

MEANINGS OF *WRITING* GIVEN IN DICTIONARIES

(quoted from www.wordnik.com)

1. An act or process

- “The act of one who writes.”
- “The activity of putting something in written form.”
- “The process of representing a language with symbols or letters.”
- “The recording of words or sounds in significant characters; in the most general sense, any use of or method of using letters or other conventional symbols of uttered sounds for the visible preservation or transmission of ideas”

2. The result of this act in general

- “That which is written.”
- “Graphism of symbols such as letters that express some meaning.”
- “Letters or symbols that are written or imprinted on a surface to represent the sounds or words of a language.”

3. Written texts

- “A written work, especially a literary composition.”
- “A work of an author.”

MEANINGS OF *LITERACY* GIVEN IN DICTIONARIES

(quoted from www.wordnik.com)

literacy = the condition or quality of being literate

„the state of being literate, knowledge of letters; ability to read and write; possession of education [...]”

=> literate

American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language

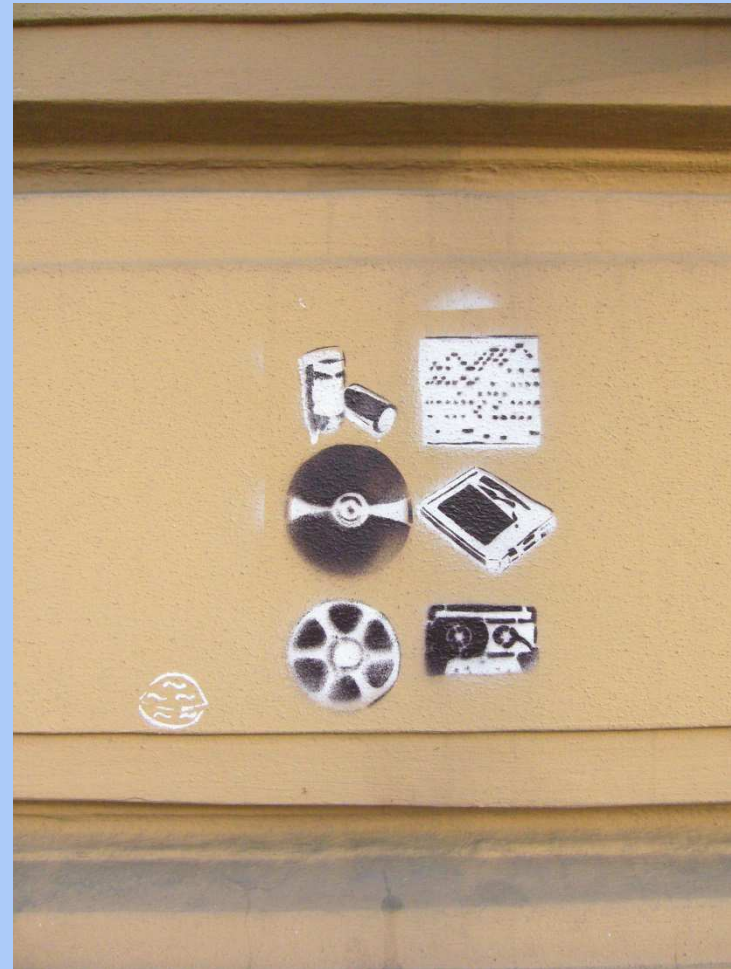
1. adj. Able to read and write.
2. adj. Knowledgeable or educated in a particular field or fields.
3. adj. Familiar with literature; [literary](#).
4. adj. Well-written; polished: *a literate essay*.
5. n. One who can read and write.
6. n. A well-informed, educated person.

WRITING AS AN ACT(IVITY)

What writers write about writing...

Read the quotes on the handout and write down some notions or questions that are associated with writing.

WRITING AS WHAT IS WRITTEN: DO THESE PICTURE SHOW WRITING?







HOMework (READING)

Choose one of the options 1) OR 2), read the text(s) and answer the study questions (of course you may also read all the texts :) You can find texts and study questions on the [homepage](#).

1) Crystal, David, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, pp. 206-212 [CrystalEnc206_212]

and:

Wicherkiewicz, Tomasz [2014] Writing. Writing systems of the world (only this first part, you don't need to read the part „Developping a written form...”), online here: <http://languagesindanger.eu/book-of-knowledge/writing/>

2) Fisher, Steven, *A History of Writing*, pp. 11-33