

## WORKSHEET B

<b>Title</b>	<b>Sociolinguistic competence</b>
<b>Objective(s)</b>	To be able to exchange information effectively To reflect on sociolinguistic competence
<b>Key words</b>	action-oriented approach – politeness – impoliteness – registers

<b>Ref to the guide</b>	<b>Ref to the CEFR</b>
III. 2, III.3, III.4, III.5	2.1.2, 2.1.3, 5.2.2

### Task A ( ♀ ♀ )

Starting with the definition of competence given by the CEFR and questions relating to language use, (5.2.2, see also Worksheet A Sociolinguistic competence) suggest some tasks for learners to do.

Questions relating to language use	Suggested activities/ tasks to do
Indicators of social relationships	
Rules of politeness	
Common wise sayings	
Difference in register	
Dialect and accent	

### Task B ( ♀ ♀ )

Think about the notion of 'interethnic misunderstandings' (CEFR 5.2.2.2 p. 93), in particular regarding politeness by default and impoliteness. How could these translate into concrete attitudes?

Politeness by default	Impoliteness

How can positive politeness, on the other hand, correspond to the principle of cooperation?  
( see also 5.2.3.1).

### Task C ( ♀ ♀ ♀ )

Read the following definition taken from the CEFR (Difference in register 5.2.2.4 p. 120):

"In early learning (say up to level B1), a relatively neutral register is appropriate, unless there



are compelling reasons otherwise. It is this register that native speakers are likely to use towards and expect from foreigners and strangers generally. Acquaintance with more formal or more familiar registers is likely to come over a period of time, perhaps through the reading of different text-types, particularly novels, at first as a receptive competence. Some caution should be exercised in using more formal or more familiar registers, since their inappropriate use may well lead to misinterpretation and ridicule."

Starting from the following questions and from your experiences of learning and teaching, discuss in the group:

- Can you imagine 'overarching reasons' that could involve the use of a less neutral register?
- Why can reading novels lead to a 'familiarity with more formal and more familiar registers'?
- What could 'inappropriate use' of more formal or more familiar registers be?