Assessing Learners' Writing

Types of Assessments

1. **Standard dictation**
2. **Partial dictation**
    - Cloze - some text given, students fill-in-the blank
3. **Graduation dictation** - lengths of bursts gradually get longer
4. **Dichtocomp** - a combination of a dictation and a composition. Students hear a text but they don't write the entire text, they write only what they remember. They write a summary
    - Integrated task - receptive and productive skills
    - A measure of meaning **NOT** grammar
    - Great for a progress or achievement tests
        - Can vary length, topic, content
    - Propositional scoring
        - It tests students' summarizing ability
        - It is the basic meaning at the sentence level

Grading Writing

Subjective grading

- Divide # to total words by the # of mistakes in the composition
- Analytic scoring system
    - Graded on categories NOT the writing/speech as a whole
- Multi-trait scoring
    - Analytic - Categories are broken down
- Primary-trait scoring
    - Holistic - just 1 score given
    - Focuses on 1 function/category
    - Takes the purpose writing into account
        - EX. How convincing an argument is
- Holistic
- Propositional

Objective grading

- There is a developed key (a computer could do the scoring - scan torn)
    - Holisitic
        - Grading on a whole rather than on grammar
        - Highly reliable
        - Washback is questionable (what does it tell a S when he gets his essay back?)
        - Highly practical

Weighted scale

- Some categories are more important than others
    - EX.
        - Introduction, body and conclusion 10 points
        - Logical development of ideas 10 points

- Grammar 10 points
- Punctuation, spelling, mechanics **5 points**

T-units - a measurement of syntactic structure