INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE WRITTEN TASK

This task is intended to give you a chance to examine *grammatical* features of non-standard dialects and how these are realized in literary texts. Many novels, plays and short stories include characters who are depicted as using non-standard dialects. We therefore find many examples of these dialects, in the case of the novel or short story in direct speech.

Step 1: Choose a text to examine. Ideally this will be something you need to read for one of your other courses, though it can be any literary text you find interesting.

Step 2: Read the text and locate passages that contain instances of non-standard dialect. These will normally be scattered throughout the novel, play or story.

Step 3: Distinguish between efforts on the part of the author to convey the character's accent orthographically (i.e. through spelling changes), use of taboo lexis or slang and – what you are interested in – non-standard *grammar*.

Step 4: Look for information on the dialect used in the novel, story, etc. Mark examples in the text of the features you find documented. (Wikipedia is usually a good source. You may use other sources such as the useful feature catalogue in Bernd Kortmann and Benedikt Szmrecsanyi, "Global Synopsis: morphological and syntactic variation in English," pp. 1146-48; the link is on our webpage, topic 4.)

Step 5: Organize the examples systematically.

Step 6: Arrive at a conclusion about how accurately the writer conveys the dialect. Is s/he systematic or does s/he mix various dialects together or even introduce forms that would be unlikely or impossible for a speaker from that region or social group? What effect is the writer trying to achieve by using the dialect?

You may use this task as an opportunity to show that you are acquainted with concepts discussed in the course. (If you want to see examples of papers written by students in previous years, come to my office.) For style conventions (font size, line spacing, etc.) you may refer to the "Template for the Degree Final Project in English Studies" (the link is on our webpage, seminar 11). For referencing your sources, you may use the citation style of your choice (APA, MLA, etc.), but be consistent.

NAMING CONVENTION

To help me handle the correction of your papers, please observe the following convention when naming your files: **SURNAMES** (all capital letters) **+ Forename** (lowercase) **+ VarEng** (preceded by version number).

First version:	SURNAMES Forename (1VarEng).docx
	ALONSO HERRERA Raúl (1VarEng).docx
Final version:	SURNAMES Forename (2VarEng).docx
	ALONSO HERRERA Raúl (2VarEng).docx

CORRECTIONS

Look through my comments and corrections carefully. In many cases you will find single words or phrases highlighted in yellow. The highlighting is to draw your attention to an error of some kind. Most of these are grammatical, though there may also be instances of off-register language (too informal) or odd collocations. You should try to correct the errors I have highlighted. (If you wish, you may highlight your corrections in a different color.)

You will also have comments of your task to draw your attention to areas of content that are questionable. You MUST respond to each of these comments (again, highlighting your answers in a different color.)