Intentionality and acceptability in EAP: metadiscourse and evaluation

1) Some items of metadiscourse have been removed from the text. Fill in the gaps, choosing the correct term/expression among those given next to each gap in the right column (a or b).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Bearing in mind, however, that language learning is an international activity, ___what is in vogue in the literature does not ___reflect what is actually happening in all parts of the world. In some places, the latest fashion simply does not reach teachers, syllabus designers or text-book writers; in others, there is a significant time lag before a new approach arrives; ___ elsewhere, new theories may be actively resisted. ___, although the mainstream literature has supported monolingual teaching for the last hundred years or so, there are many educational contexts where use of the students’ own language has remained the norm. ___ if bilingual teaching returns, as the literature surveyed in this article suggests it will, then ___monolingual teaching will nevertheless continue in many places. The greater part of the language-teaching literature has concerned the teaching of English, although a great deal of it, acting on the assumption underpinning much second language acquisition (SLA) research that acquiring a new language is a ___uniform universal process, implicitly claims relevance to the teaching of any language. ___, this failure to differentiate is a considerable weakness; while the psycholinguistic aspects of language learning ___indeed have some universal features, the sociolinguistic factors vary considerably. As English continues to grow and consolidate its position as the dominant international language, its use raises very specific issues of power and identity, which, though shared ___by other dominant and widely distributed languages (such as French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian), are <em><strong>different from those involved in the teaching of smaller and more geographically confined languages (such as Icelandic, Chechen, Navaho and literally thousands of others). The extent and speed of the spread of English make it, in the view of some analysts (</strong></em> Phillipson 1992), a threat to other languages, including those which have formerly had international currency in one field or another (___diplomatic French or scientific Russian). ___, the global distribution of English (Crystal 2003), its fragmenting into new Englishes (Seargeant 2012) and its use as a lingua franca (Seidlhofer 2011) mean that, for many learners, native-speaker models of English and the goal of cultural integration into English speaking countries are no longer needed, or even desirable.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) it is hardly the case that</td>
<td>b) it is important to note that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) additionally</td>
<td>b) necessarily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) and</td>
<td>b) thus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) thus</td>
<td>b) similarly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) similarly</td>
<td>b) on the contrary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) it is unlikely that</td>
<td>b) it is likely that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) substantially</td>
<td>b) hardly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) on the other hand</td>
<td>b) in our view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) may</td>
<td>b) should</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) in a certain extent</td>
<td>b) to a certain extent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) not</td>
<td>b) substantially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) e.g.</td>
<td>b) i.e.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) say</td>
<td>b) mostly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) additionally</td>
<td>b) in spite of that</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Graham Hall / Guy Cook. Own-language use in language teaching and learning State-of-the-Art Article. Expressions in bold are useful collocations in English for academic purposes)
2) If we walk around the news stands, we can easily see different kinds of comics with attractive covers everywhere. You can look around yourself in the streets and you will see many young people are reading comic books. There is no doubt that comic books are probably the most popular form of reading material for youngsters in Hong Kong. Many of my friends read them and I myself buy several every week such as 'Dragon Ball' and 'Tiger Fish'. Is this trend unhealthy for students? Does it lead to bad influences on them? We cannot prove the increase of crime rate and suicide can be linked to increasing reading of violent and pornography comics.

3) Hedges

It may not be the case that girls are naturally better at foreign languages.
It would seem/appear that girls are more interested in languages than boys.
We can presume that all humans have the ability to learn a second language. [believe something to be true because it seems very likely]
There appears/seems to be some evidence linking diet with language ability.
There is some evidence that previous studies are unreliable.
We can draw the tentative conclusion that early language skills determine how successful a child will be at school. [possible, not yet certain]

3 Edit sentences 1–6 to add a variety of minimizing language.

Example: The storage of health information online has significant implications in terms of security and privacy.

The storage of health information online may have potentially significant implications in terms of security and privacy.

1 The application of stricter visa controls will have knock-on effects in both the business and education sectors.
2 With general acceptance that recorded cases are only the ‘tip of the iceberg’, more thorough risk assessment is needed.
3 The recent research on dyslexic students shows that they are more creative than the rest of the population.
4 Less developed countries place the blame for their slow growth rates on outside factors such as colonial legacies and free trade.
5 Children from wealthier, well-connected backgrounds are at an advantage in the careers market.
6 Economic, social, and technological developments have resulted in greater inequalities between different income groups in the world.
4) Boosters

It is undoubtedly true that language ability is not simply a matter of intelligence. [without doubt, certainly]
It is, of course, essential to check data carefully. [shows the writer sees this as obvious]
It is evident that girls and boys develop at slightly different rates. [obvious, clear]
The best age for language learning is, apparently, the teenage years.
Pronunciation of unfamiliar sounds presumably comes more easily to young children.
The research is likely to lead to some interesting results. = The research will probably lead to some interesting results.
Boys tend to have better practical skills than girls. [are likely to]
There is a tendency for boys to be more enthusiastic about team sports than girls. [it is often the case that]
There is every likelihood that the research will be completed by June. [it is probable]
The situation is liable to change. [may change, is likely to change]

TASK 4  Recognizing confident and tentative interpretation

1) For each sentence, decide the type of connection and whether the interpretation is confident or tentative. Identify the connection language.

1 Thus family income and demographics affect the overall size of children as reflected in height.
2 These results support the idea that health is influenced not only by food intake but also by the disease environment.
3 Repeated infection may have a cumulative effect on height, particularly when food supply is limited.
4 These trends are often associated with rising income and nutrition, improving public sanitation and better housing conditions, and possibly better medical conditions and school environments.
5 Previous studies of the Boyd Orr cohort indicate that there is a strong correlation between measures such as height and leg length observed during childhood and the same measures observed in adulthood.
5) More on hedging/boosting

37.2 Insert adverbs based on the words in italics into suitable places in the sentences.
1 Russo was a member of a terrorist organisation, but it was never proved. allege
2 At that time, the population of tigers was widespread in the region. report
3 The collapse of the roof caused a sprinkler system pipe to burst. appear
4 To get a better job is a main motivation for going on to higher education. presume
5 We may conclude that water shortages are likely to increase rather than decrease.
tentative
6 The students were guessing some of the answers instead of using their knowledge of the
text. evidence

37.3 Complete the missing forms in the table. Use a dictionary if necessary. Do not fill the
shaded boxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>noun</th>
<th>verb</th>
<th>adjective</th>
<th>adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>evidence</td>
<td>tend</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>seem</td>
<td>likely</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>perceive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

37.4 Change these sentences. Use different forms of the words in bold, as instructed.
1 There is little likelihood that everyone will fail the test. (use the adjective)
2 Students tend to leave preparation for exams till the last minute. (use the noun)
3 We saw evidence that some students had copied each other’s answers. (use the adjective)
4 People commonly perceive that older people cannot learn musical instruments to a
professional standard. (use the noun)
5 The melting of the polar ice caps seems to be inevitable. (use the adverb)

6) Evidentials/attribution
7) Rewrite these sentences using nouns instead of verbs, beginning as shown in brackets

1. Harkov contends that continued population growth will be a more serious problem than 
global warming, but this is not accepted by many scientists. (Harkov’s …)
2. ‘Global symmetry’ states that the laws of physics take the same form when expressed in 
terms of distinct variables. (‘Global symmetry’ is …)
3. The report implies that no individual government will ever be able to control the 
internet. (The report makes …)
4. Dudas demonstrates how dangerous genetic modification might be. (Dudas provides …)
5. Groot emphasises the role of schools in preventing teenage drug abuse. (Groot puts …)
6. Lenard observes that women use expressions such as ‘you know’ in English more than 
men but this was later proved to be inaccurate. (Lenard’s …)
8. Some structures expressing stance in Cl sentence transformations

1. Perhaps John heard the story from Pippa.
   **have**
   Pippa might __________________________ story.

2. It's not possible that you saw Mary last night, she was with us!
   **have**
   You __________________________________________ last night, she was with us!

3. "You really must stay for dessert," Kate's brother said to him.
   **staying**
   Kate's brother ____________________________ for dessert.

4. We need to run or the train will leave before we get there.
   **time**
   Unless we run, the train __________________________________________ we get there.

5. "A massage would do you a lot of good," Jake told Amy.
   **from**
   "You __________________________________________ a massage," Jake told Amy.

6. Even if it's very far, they want to go to Paris for a weekend break.
   **may**
   Far, ____________________________ they want to go to Paris for a weekend break.

7. This building stands a very good chance of being closed as unsafe by the council.
   **highly**
   It's ____________________________ will be closed by council due to being unsafe.

8. They'll blame the failure of the festival on the weather.
   **down**
   The failure of the festival ____________________________ the weather.
9. I know it's dangerous, but I love hang gliding.
   **may**
   Dangerous ____________________________________________, I love hang gliding.

10. I'd prefer you not to stay out so late.
    **rather**
    I'd __________________________________________stay out so late.

11. I don't think it's important how fast we drive, we're going to be late.
    **matter**
    We're going to be late ___________________________________________drive.

12. You should have spoken to Meg sooner.
    **spoken**
    If ____________________________________________ to Meg sooner.

13. "You played your music too loud last night," Jan said to Ben angrily.
    **accused**
    Jan __________________________________________his music too loud the previous night