

2.7 Generalisations

1 Using generalisations

- (a) This may be true in some cases, but is too general to be valid.
- (b) A widely accepted fact, supported by evidence.
- (c) Similar to (b), this is a well-researched link.
- (d) Similar to (a).
- (e) Clearly true in some cases, but not valid for every situation, e.g. Paris-London.

2 Structure

What we look for in choosing a mate seems to vary from place to place. A recent study (Jones and DeBruine, 2010) explores the idea that female preferences in a mate might vary according to the society in which she lives. In their research nearly 5,000 women in 30 countries were shown the same pictures of male faces and asked to state which they found more attractive. In countries where disease is common women chose men with more masculine features, while in countries such as America with more advanced health care and lower levels of disease, more effeminate-looking men were preferred. The researchers conclude that in healthier societies women are more interested in men who may form long-term relationships and help with child-rearing, while in places where child mortality rates are high they choose strongly-featured men who seem more likely to produce healthy children.

3 Practice A

(Example answers)

- (b) Regular rainfall is necessary for good crop yields.
- (c) Honest judges are needed to ensure respect for the law.

- (d) Adequate sleep is vital for academic success.
- (e) Industrial growth tends to cause pollution.
- (f) Cold weather is likely to increase demand for gas.
- (g) Job satisfaction depends on having interesting work.

4 Practice B

(Example generalisations)

- (a) Graduates are more likely than undergraduates to study in the library.
- (b) Female undergraduates generally prefer to work in silence.
- (c) Few students choose to study outdoors.
- (d) Male graduates prefer to study in the library, while females prefer their own room.
- (e) More undergraduates than graduates work in bed.