

# language of composition analysis

**language of composition analysis** is an essential skill in understanding how written texts convey meaning, evoke emotions, and persuade audiences. This form of analysis delves into how authors use linguistic choices, rhetorical strategies, and stylistic elements to construct effective arguments or narratives. By examining diction, syntax, tone, imagery, and other language features, one gains insight into the deeper purpose and impact of a composition. The study of language of composition analysis is particularly valuable in academic settings, where critical reading and writing abilities are emphasized. This article explores the fundamental components of language analysis, the methods used to evaluate compositions, and the significance of mastering this skill for both students and professionals. The following sections will guide readers through an overview, key techniques, and practical applications of language of composition analysis.

- Understanding the Language of Composition
- Key Elements in Language of Composition Analysis
- Techniques for Effective Language Analysis
- Applying Language of Composition Analysis in Academic Writing
- Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

## Understanding the Language of Composition

The language of composition refers to the specific linguistic and rhetorical features that an author employs to create meaning within a text. This includes the choice of words, sentence structures, figurative language, and organizational patterns that work together to influence the reader's interpretation. In composition analysis, understanding these elements is crucial because it reveals how language functions beyond mere communication—highlighting persuasion, tone, and style. The language used in compositions can vary widely depending on the genre, purpose, and audience, making the analysis context-dependent and nuanced.

## The Role of Rhetoric in Composition

Rhetoric, the art of persuasion, plays a central role in the language of composition. Authors use rhetorical appeals—ethos, pathos, and logos—to connect with their readers and strengthen their arguments. Ethos establishes credibility, pathos appeals to emotions, and logos relies on logic and

reason. Analyzing how these appeals are woven into the language helps decode the author's intent and effectiveness. Recognizing rhetorical strategies is a foundational aspect of language of composition analysis, especially in argumentative and persuasive writing.

## **Language and Audience Interaction**

The interaction between language and audience is a dynamic aspect of composition analysis. Authors tailor their language to resonate with specific audiences, adjusting formality, technicality, and tone accordingly. For example, academic compositions often feature formal diction and complex syntax, while popular media might use colloquial language. Understanding the intended audience aids in interpreting why certain language choices were made and how they influence reception and interpretation.

## **Key Elements in Language of Composition Analysis**

Several crucial elements form the foundation of language analysis in composition. Identifying and dissecting these elements enable a thorough understanding of how a text operates on both a surface and deeper level. Each element contributes uniquely to the overall impact of the composition and should be examined carefully.

### **Diction and Word Choice**

Diction refers to the author's choice of words, which can significantly affect tone and meaning. Analyzing diction involves looking at connotation versus denotation, formality levels, and the use of jargon or slang. Precise word choice can create vivid imagery, evoke emotions, or clarify complex ideas. Understanding diction helps reveal the subtle nuances embedded in the text.

### **Syntax and Sentence Structure**

Syntax pertains to how sentences are constructed. Analyzing sentence length, complexity, and variation provides insight into the author's style and intent. For instance, short, choppy sentences may create a sense of urgency, while longer, complex sentences may convey thoroughness or sophistication. The rhythm and flow of sentences also influence readability and emotional impact.

## **Figurative Language and Imagery**

Figurative language includes metaphors, similes, personification, and other literary devices that enrich the text. Imagery appeals to the senses and helps readers visualize concepts or experiences. Examining these devices uncovers layers of meaning and emotional resonance that straightforward language might not convey. Figurative language is often a key indicator of the author's creative and persuasive techniques.

## **Tone and Mood**

Tone reflects the author's attitude toward the subject, while mood describes the emotional atmosphere created for the reader. Both are shaped significantly by language choices. Analyzing tone involves identifying whether the language is formal, sarcastic, passionate, or neutral. Understanding tone and mood is essential for grasping the overall effect of the composition on its audience.

## **Techniques for Effective Language Analysis**

Successful language of composition analysis requires a methodical approach to dissecting and interpreting textual elements. Employing specific techniques ensures that the analysis is comprehensive and insightful.

## **Close Reading**

Close reading involves a detailed, line-by-line examination of the text to uncover layers of meaning. This technique focuses on identifying key language features such as diction, syntax, and rhetorical devices. Close reading helps analysts detect subtle nuances that contribute to the composition's overall impact.

## **Annotating the Text**

Annotation is the practice of marking the text with notes, questions, and observations. It aids in organizing thoughts and highlighting important language features during analysis. Annotating enables a clear and structured approach, making it easier to reference specific aspects of the composition during writing or discussion.

## **Identifying Rhetorical Strategies**

Recognizing rhetorical strategies is essential in language analysis. These include appeals to ethos, pathos, and logos, as well as devices like

repetition, parallelism, and rhetorical questions. Identifying these strategies clarifies how the author attempts to persuade or inform the audience.

## **Contextual Analysis**

Contextual analysis involves considering the historical, cultural, and situational background of the composition. Understanding the context can explain why certain language choices were made and how they resonate with the intended audience. This technique enriches the language analysis by linking text to broader external factors.

## **Applying Language of Composition Analysis in Academic Writing**

Language of composition analysis is a vital skill in academic writing, particularly in disciplines such as literature, rhetoric, and communication studies. It enhances critical thinking and supports the development of well-informed arguments.

## **Structuring Analytical Essays**

In academic essays, structuring a coherent analysis is crucial. Writers typically begin with a thesis statement that outlines the main argument regarding the author's language use. Body paragraphs focus on specific language features and their effects, supported by textual evidence. The organization should follow a logical progression that builds the overall interpretation.

## **Integrating Evidence and Commentary**

Effective language analysis requires integrating quotations and examples from the text with clear commentary. Commentary explains how the chosen language elements contribute to meaning or persuasion. This balance between evidence and explanation strengthens the credibility and depth of the analysis.

## **Developing Critical Vocabulary**

Academic language analysis benefits from a strong vocabulary of literary and rhetorical terms. Terms such as "imagery," "syntax," "tone," "ethos," and "pathos" enable precise and concise explanations. Mastering this vocabulary allows for greater clarity and professionalism in writing.

# **Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them**

Analyzing the language of composition can present several challenges, especially for those new to the practice. Awareness of these obstacles and strategies to address them improves analytical skills and confidence.

## **Distinguishing Between Summary and Analysis**

A frequent challenge is confusing summary with analysis. While summary recounts what the text says, analysis explains how and why the language functions. Overcoming this requires focusing on interpretation and the effects of language rather than mere description.

## **Managing Complex Texts**

Complex compositions with dense language or abstract ideas can be intimidating. Breaking the text into manageable sections and using close reading techniques helps in understanding and analyzing difficult passages.

## **Avoiding Overgeneralization**

Another obstacle is making broad or unsupported claims about language use. Precise evidence and specific language features must support all assertions. Careful annotation and detailed examination prevent vague or inaccurate analysis.

## **Maintaining Objectivity**

Maintaining an objective tone is important to ensure that the analysis remains professional and credible. Avoiding personal opinions and focusing on textual evidence strengthens the quality of the analysis.

## **Practical Tips for Mastering Language of Composition Analysis**

To enhance proficiency in language of composition analysis, consider the following practical tips:

- Practice regular close reading of diverse texts to familiarize with different styles and rhetorical techniques.
- Build a glossary of rhetorical and literary terms to use in analysis.

- Write practice essays focusing on specific language elements to develop analytical writing skills.
- Seek feedback from instructors or peers to refine analytical approaches.
- Engage with scholarly resources on rhetoric and composition to deepen understanding.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is 'Language of Composition' in literary analysis?**

'Language of Composition' refers to the specific ways language is used in texts, including rhetorical devices, diction, syntax, and style, to convey meaning and persuade audiences. It is a key focus in analyzing how authors compose their works.

### **How does analyzing the language of composition help in understanding a text?**

Analyzing the language of composition helps readers uncover deeper meanings, understand the author's intent, and appreciate the effectiveness of rhetorical strategies. It reveals how word choice, sentence structure, and figurative language shape the text's impact.

### **What are common rhetorical devices studied in language of composition analysis?**

Common rhetorical devices include metaphors, similes, alliteration, parallelism, repetition, ethos, pathos, logos, irony, and hyperbole. These devices enhance persuasion and enrich the text's expressive power.

### **How can syntax influence the tone and meaning in a composition?**

Syntax, or sentence structure, influences tone and meaning by affecting the rhythm, emphasis, and clarity of ideas. Short, simple sentences can create urgency or straightforwardness, while complex sentences may convey sophistication or nuance.

### **Why is diction important in language of composition**

## analysis?

Diction, or word choice, is crucial because it shapes the text's tone, mood, and level of formality. Precise diction helps convey specific emotions and ideas, and analyzing it allows readers to understand the subtleties of the author's message.

## Additional Resources

### 1. *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*

This book by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein offers a practical guide to academic writing, emphasizing the importance of engaging with other people's ideas. It introduces templates to help students structure their arguments effectively and respond to counterarguments. The text is particularly valuable for understanding rhetorical strategies and crafting persuasive analyses.

### 2. *Everything's an Argument*

Written by Andrea A. Lunsford and John J. Ruszkiewicz, this book explores the concept that argumentation is a fundamental part of communication in everyday life. It covers various forms of arguments, including visual and digital, and teaches readers how to analyze and construct compelling arguments. The book is essential for studying rhetorical analysis and composition.

### 3. *The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing, Rhetoric*

Authored by Renee H. Shea, Lawrence Scanlon, and Robin Aufses, this textbook is designed for AP English Language and Composition courses. It provides comprehensive instruction on rhetorical analysis, argumentation, and synthesis essays. The book includes a variety of essays and visual texts, along with detailed commentary to enhance critical reading and writing skills.

### 4. *Rhetorical Grammar: Grammatical Choices, Rhetorical Effects*

Martha Kolln's book focuses on how grammatical choices influence meaning and rhetorical impact. It helps readers understand the relationship between grammar and style, which is crucial for effective composition and analysis. The book is particularly useful for refining writing techniques and understanding language at a deeper level.

### 5. *Writing Analytically*

David Rosenwasser and Jill Stephen offer a clear approach to analytical writing, encouraging readers to break down texts and ideas critically. The book teaches methods for close reading, questioning, and organizing thoughts to produce insightful analysis. It serves as a valuable resource for students aiming to improve their analytical writing skills.

### 6. *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace*

By Joseph M. Williams and Joseph Bizup, this book teaches writers how to achieve clear, graceful prose. It addresses common stylistic problems and offers techniques for improving clarity, coherence, and elegance in writing.

The text is beneficial for anyone looking to polish their composition and rhetorical style.

7. *They Say, I Say with Readings: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*  
An expanded version of the original "They Say / I Say," this edition includes readings that exemplify effective argumentation. It provides models for incorporating sources and responding to others' ideas within academic writing. The book is an excellent tool for mastering rhetorical analysis and synthesis.

8. *Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion*  
Jay Heinrichs presents an engaging guide to rhetoric and persuasion, drawing on classical and contemporary examples. The book explains rhetorical techniques and how to apply them in writing and speaking. It is useful for understanding the persuasive elements of composition and analysis.

9. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*  
Thomas C. Foster's book demystifies literary analysis by revealing common themes, symbols, and narrative techniques. It encourages readers to think critically about texts and interpret deeper meanings. While focused on literature, the analytical skills taught are applicable to rhetorical and language composition studies.

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**language of composition analysis:** *A Practical Grammar of the English Language: With Analysis of Sentences* Peter Bullions, 2025-07-20 Reprint of the original, first published in 1881. The Antigonos publishing house specialises in the publication of reprints of historical books. We make sure that these works are made available to the public in good condition in order to preserve their cultural heritage.

**language of composition analysis:** ICLLE 2019 Syahrul R , Zulfadhli, Muhammad Adek, Kundharu Saddhono, 2019-07-19 As an annual event, International Conference on Language, Literature, and Education in Digital Era (ICLLE) 2019 continued the agenda to bring together researcher, academics, experts and professionals in examining selected theme by language, literature and education in digital era. In 2019, this event held in 19-20 July 2019 at Padang, Indonesia. The conference from any kind of stakeholders related with Language and literature especially in education. Each contributed paper was refereed before being accepted for publication.

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**language of composition analysis: Test and Analysis of Web Services** Luciano Baresi, 2007-09-13 The authors have here put together the first reference on all aspects of testing and validating service-oriented architectures. With contributions by leading academic and industrial research groups it offers detailed guidelines for the actual validation process. Readers will find a comprehensive survey of state-of-the-art approaches as well as techniques and tools to improve the quality of service-oriented applications. It also includes references and scenarios for future research and development.

**language of composition analysis: The Language of Images** Maria Giulia Dondero, 2020-08-18 This book deals with two fundamental issues in the semiotics of the image. The first is the relationship between image and observer: how does one look at an image? To answer this question, this book sets out to transpose the theory of enunciation formulated in linguistics over to the visual field. It also aims to clarify the gains made in contemporary visual semiotics relative to the semiology of Roland Barthes and Emile Benveniste. The second issue addressed is the relation between the forces, forms and materiality of the images. How do different physical mediums (pictorial, photographic and digital) influence visual forms? How does materiality affect the generativity of forms? On the forces within the images, the book addresses the philosophical thought of Gilles Deleuze and René Thom as well as the experiment of Aby Warburg's Atlas Mnemosyne. The theories discussed in the book are tested on a variety of corpora for analysis, including both paintings and photographs, taken from traditional as well as contemporary sources in a variety of social sectors (arts and sciences). Finally, semiotic methodology is contrasted with the computational analysis of large collections of images (Big Data), such as the "Media Visualization" analyses proposed by Lev Manovich and Cultural Analytics in the field of Computer Science to evaluate the impact of automatic analysis of visual forms on Digital Art History and more generally on the image sciences.

**language of composition analysis: A Grammar of the Puk'hto, Pus'hto, Or Language of the Afghans** Henry George Raverty, 1867

**language of composition analysis: Handbook of Language and Social Interaction** Kristine L. Fitch, Robert E. Sanders, 2004-12-13 This Handbook stands as the premier scholarly resource for Language and Social Interaction (LSI) subject matter and research, giving visibility and definition to this area of study and establishing a benchmark for the current state of scholarship. The Handbook identifies the five main subdisciplinary areas that make up LSI-language pragmatics, conversation analysis, language and social psychology, discourse analysis, and the ethnography of communication. One section of the volume is devoted to each area, providing a forum for a variety of authoritative voices to provide their respective views on the central concerns, research programs, and main findings of each area, and to articulate the present or emergent issues and directions. A sixth section addresses LSI in the context of broadcast media and the Internet. This volume's distinguished authors and original content contribute significantly to the advancement of LSI scholarship, circumscribing and clarifying the interrelationships among the questions, findings, and methods across LSI's subdisciplinary areas. Readers will come away richer in their understanding of the variety and depth of ways the intricacies of language and social interaction are revealed. As an essential scholarly resource, this Handbook is required reading for scholars, researchers, and graduate students in language and social interaction, and it is destined to have a broad influence on future LSI study and research.

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**language of composition analysis: The Language of Jane Austen** Joe Bray, 2018-02-12 Joe

Bray's careful analysis of Jane Austen's stylistic techniques reveals that the genius of her writing is far from effortless; rather he makes the case for her as a meticulous craftswoman and a radical stylistic pioneer. Countering those who have detected in her novels a dominant, authoritative perspective, Bray begins by highlighting the complex, ever-shifting and ambiguous nature of the point of view through which her narratives are presented. This argument is then advanced through an exploration of the subtle representation of speech, thought and writing in Austen's novels. Subsequent chapters investigate and challenge the common critical associations of Austen's style with moral prescriptivism, ideas of balance and harmony, and literal as opposed to figurative expression. The book demonstrates that the wit and humour of her fiction is derived instead from a complex and subtle interplay between different styles. This compelling reassessment of Austen's language will offer a valuable resource for students and scholars of stylistics, English literature and language and linguistics.

**language of composition analysis: The Language of Trauma in the Psalms** Danilo Verde, 2024-09-03 Over the last few decades, the field of trauma studies has shed new light on biblical texts that deal with individual and collective catastrophe. In *The Language of Trauma in the Psalms*, Danilo Verde advances the conversation, moving beyond the emphasis on healing that prevails in most literary trauma studies. Using the lens of cognitive linguistics and combining insights from trauma studies and redaction criticism, Verde explores how trauma is expressed linguistically in the book of Psalms, how trauma-related language was rooted in ancient Israel's external realities, and how psalms helped define Yehud's cultural trauma in the Persian period (539-331 BCE). Rather than assuming the psalmists' personal experiences are reflected in these texts, Verde focuses on the linguistic strategies used to express trauma in the Psalms, especially references to the body and highly dramatic metaphors. Current analyses often approach trauma texts as tools intended to help sufferers heal. Verde contends that many group laments in the book of Psalms were transmitted not only to heal but also to wound the community, ensuring that the pain of a previous generation was not forgotten. *The Language of Trauma in the Psalms* shifts our understanding of trauma in biblical texts and will appeal to literary trauma scholars as well as those interested in ancient Israel.

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**language of composition analysis: Second Language Writing Research** Paul Kei Matsuda, Tony Silva, 2014-04-08 This book consists of original chapters on various methodological issues in second language writing research.

**language of composition analysis: A Reference Structure for Modular Model-based Analyses** Koch, Sandro Giovanni, 2024-04-25 In this work, the authors analysed the co-dependency between models and analyses, particularly the structure and interdependence of artefacts and the feature-based decomposition and composition of model-based analyses. Their goal is to improve the maintainability of model-based analyses. They have investigated the co-dependency of Domain-specific Modelling Languages (DSMLs) and model-based analyses regarding evolvability, understandability, and reusability.

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**language of composition analysis: The Language of Nature** Geoffrey Gorham, Benjamin Hill, Edward Slowik, C. Kenneth Waters, 2016-06-15 Galileo's dictum that the book of nature "is written in the language of mathematics" is emblematic of the accepted view that the scientific revolution hinged on the conceptual and methodological integration of mathematics and natural philosophy. Although the mathematization of nature is a distinctive and crucial feature of the emergence of modern science in the seventeenth century, this volume shows that it was a far more complex, contested, and context-dependent phenomenon than the received historiography has indicated, and that philosophical controversies about the implications of mathematization cannot be understood in isolation from broader social developments related to the status and practice of mathematics in various commercial, political, and academic institutions. Contributors: Roger Ariew, U of South

Florida; Richard T. W. Arthur, McMaster U; Lesley B. Cormack, U of Alberta; Daniel Garber, Princeton U; Ursula Goldenbaum, Emory U; Dana Jalobeanu, U of Bucharest; Douglas Jesseph, U of South Florida; Carla Rita Palmerino, Radboud U, Nijmegen and Open U of the Netherlands; Eileen Reeves, Princeton U; Christopher Smeenk, Western U; Justin E. H. Smith, U of Paris 7; Kurt Smith, Bloomsburg U of Pennsylvania.

**language of composition analysis:** Constraint Solving and Language Processing Henning Christiansen, Peter Rossen Skadhauge, Jørgen Villadsen, 2005-05-18 This volume contains selected and thoroughly revised papers plus contributions from invited speakers presented at the First International Workshop on C- straint Solving and Language Processing, held in Roskilde, Denmark, September 1-3, 2004. Constraint Programming and Constraint Solving, in particular Constraint Logic Programming, appear to be a very promising platform, perhaps the most promising present platform, for bringing forward the state of the art in natural language processing, this due to the naturalness in speci?cation and the direct relation to e?cient implementation. Language, in the present context, may - fer to written and spoken language, formal and semiformal language, and even general input data to multimodal and pervasive systems, which can be handled in very much the same ways using constraint programming. The notion of constraints, with slightly di?ering meanings, apply in the ch- acterization of linguistic and cognitive phenomena, in formalized linguistic m- els as well as in implementation-oriented frameworks. Programming techniques for constraint solving have been, and still are, in a period with rapid devel- ment of new e?cient methods and paradigms from which language processing can pro?t. A common metaphor for human language processing is one big c- straintsolvingprocessinwhichthedi?erent(-lyspeci?ed)linguisticandcognitive phases take place in parallel and with mutual cooperation, which ?ts quite well with current constraint programming paradigms.

**language of composition analysis:** What Writing Does and How It Does It Charles Bazerman, Paul Prior, 2003-12-08 In *What Writing Does and How It Does It*, editors Charles Bazerman and Paul Prior offer a sophisticated introduction to methods for understanding, studying, and analyzing texts and writing practices. This volume addresses a variety of approaches to analyzing texts, and considers the processes of writing, exploring textual practices and their contexts, and examining what texts do and how texts mean rather than what they mean. Included are traditional modes of analysis (rhetorical, literary, linguistic), as well as newer modes, such as text and talk, genre and activity analysis, and intertextual analysis. The chapters have been developed to provide answers to a specified set of questions, with each one offering: \*a preview of the chapter's content and purpose; \*an introduction to basic concepts, referring to key theoretical and research studies in the area; \*details on the types of data and questions for which the analysis is best used; \*examples from a wide-ranging group of texts, including educational materials, student writing, published literature, and online and electronic media; \*one or more applied analyses, with a clear statement of procedures for analysis and illustrations of a particular sample of data; and \*a brief summary, suggestions for additional readings, and a set of activities. The side-by-side comparison of methods allows the reader to see the multi-dimensionality of writing, facilitating selection of the best method for a particular research question. The volume contributors are experts from linguistics, communication studies, rhetoric, literary analysis, document design, sociolinguistics, education, ethnography, and cultural psychology, and each utilizes a specific mode of text analysis. With its broad range of methodological examples, *What Writing Does and How It Does It* is a unique and invaluable resource for advanced undergraduate and graduate students and for researchers in education, composition, ESL and applied linguistics, communication, L1 and L2 learning, print media, and electronic media. It will also be useful in all social sciences and humanities that place importance on texts and textual practices, such as English, writing, and rhetoric.

**language of composition analysis:** Teaching Writing Christina Russell McDonald, Robert L. McDonald, 2002 *Teaching Writing: Landmarks and Horizons*, edited by Christina Russell McDonald and Robert L. McDonald, is designed to present an overview of some of the major developments in

the establishment of composition studies as a field during the past thirty-five years. The essays are theoretically grounded but are focused on pedagogy as well. Divided into two parts, the first presents nine landmark essays, selected and introduced by distinguished composition scholars, and the second brings together eight new essays by emerging scholars.

**language of composition analysis: Evaluating the Language of Argument** Martin Hinton, 2020-11-30 This book is concerned with the evaluation of natural argumentative discourse, and, in particular, with the language in which arguments are expressed. It introduces a systematic procedure for the analysis and assessment of arguments, which is designed to be a practical tool, and may be considered a pseudo-algorithm for argument evaluation. The first half of the book lays the theoretical groundwork, with a thorough examination of both the nature of language and the nature of argument. This leads to a definition of argumentation as reasoning expressed within a procedure, which itself yields the three frames of analysis used in the evaluation procedure: Process, Reasoning, and Expression. The second half begins with a detailed discussion of the concept of fallacy, with particular attention on fallacies of language, their origin and their effects. A new way of looking at fallacies emerges from these chapters, and it is that conception, together with the understanding of the nature of argumentation described in earlier sections, which ultimately provides the support for the Comprehensive Assessment Procedure for Natural Argumentation. The first two levels of this innovative procedure are outlined, while the third, that dealing with language, and involving the development of an Informal Argument Semantics, is fully described. The use of the system, and its power of analysis, are illustrated through the evaluation of a variety of examples of argumentative texts.

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**Change language or region settings on a Pixel phone or tablet** You can change the language or region your Pixel phone or tablet uses. Change language settings Open your device's Settings app. Tap System

**Change Gemini's language - Computer - Gemini Apps Help** Change Gemini's language You can choose the language Gemini Apps display, and in certain cases, understand in Language settings. This setting changes the language for the menu,

**Change language or location settings** Scroll to "Language" to update your email notification language. Change your language or location on smart TVs, streaming devices & game consoles By default, the YouTube app on smart TVs,

**Download & use Google Translate** You can translate text, handwriting, photos, and speech in over 200 languages with the Google Translate app. You can also use Translate on the web

**Change your app language - Waze Help - Google Help** Change the language on your phone. The changes will apply when you use Waze in your car. If you're using Android Auto or CarPlay, make sure to disconnect your phone first. Open Waze

**Choose keyboard language & special characters - Chromebook Help** Choose keyboard language & special characters You can use different keyboard languages, sometimes called input methods, on your Chromebook to: Change your typing language Use

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