Choosing a structure for your final project

A successful project depends on not only an interesting topic, but also a **concrete plan**. Be sure you think carefully about how to flesh out the basic structure for your specific project, based on these guidelines.

In most cases, your project should fit into one of the following two structures. If you would like to propose a different kind of structure for your project, please confer with me as early in the process as possible.

(1)   **Data**-focused projects

(a) On the basis of my linguistics background reference(s), which say(s) _____

(b) I predict that _____ occurs more often than _____

   (or) I develop the question of whether _____ occurs more often than _____

(c) The language data I collect will allow me to test whether this is in fact the case.

   I will collect data of this type: _____ using these resources: _____

   To consider:
   • Is your data-collection plan feasible, given your knowledge of Japanese and the resources available to you?
   • Does your data-collection plan allow you to rule out confounding factors (that is, other reasons why one of these things might occur more often than the other)?

(2)   **Theory**-focused projects

(a) Concerning the following topic or proposal within linguistic theory: _____

(b) One background reference proposes _____, and another proposes _____

(c) The crucial data and/or argument presented to support each of these proposals is _____ and _____ respectively

(d) Crucial Japanese language data that supports one of these proposals better than the other is: _____

   It is best if at least some of the crucial Japanese language data comes from a source beyond your two main references, such as:
   • Data found in a third linguistics reference
   • Data that you collect yourself