

## About the midterm projects (presentation and write-up)

### Goal of the midterm project

To investigate some aspect of the Korean data that we have elicited so far, systematically and in as much depth as possible — then propose a linguistically based analysis of the pattern that you are describing (as you would for a problem set in another course), using rules or other theoretical devices as appropriate for your topic and background.

### Structure of the project

- **Project proposal due by 10:00 [absolute deadline] on Mon 2/21**; early is okay too. (I need to have the proposals before class on Monday because your proposed project topics may affect what we decide to elicit that week.) I will ask people for their **preliminary ideas in class on Fri 2/18** so we can all see how things are shaping up.
  - ▶ The proposal should describe the general research question that will be addressed in the project and explain what procedure will be followed to try to answer that question. When I read your proposal, I will help you decide whether the proposed project is of an appropriate scope, and if not, I will make suggestions. I will also try to see if we can avoid complete overlap between any two projects, if this is possible. (If there is any case where two people's project topics are extremely similar, they will have to give their presentations on the same day.)
  - ▶ I am willing to consider joint projects done by up to two people, but the overall expectations for the scope of a joint project will be higher (tackle more data!). Proposals involving joint projects should include information about how the work will be divided between the two participants.
- For best results, you should have a **nearly complete outline** of your paper and presentation done by **Mon 2/28** so that you can most effectively use your elicitation time [see below].
- **Presentations** will be given **in class on W 3/2 and F 3/4**. Each student will have 10 minutes to present plus about 2 minutes for questions or discussion. (If there are joint projects, a little more time will be allotted for those presentations.)
  - ▶ The presentation should clearly present your research question, the answer you propose, and the evidence to support your answer. You must provide a handout or other visual aids to help your audience follow your arguments.
- **Final write-ups** of your midterm projects are due **in class on M 3/7**. There is no specific page-length requirement, but as a general goal, something in the ballpark of 10-12 pages (assuming double-spaced, 10- or 12-point font) is probably appropriate. However, depth of insight and the provision of sufficient evidence to support your claims and discussion will be more important than page length.

### Some possible topic ideas

- Phonetics/phonology projects on segments and their distribution
  - ▶ Pick a set of phonetically similar segments and make a case for their phonological

status (phonemes? allophones? free variation?). Ideally, you will use a combination of distributional arguments (where the sounds occur) and phonetic measurements (what the relevant acoustic properties are, using Praat) to make your case. Some possibilities are: Variably nasal consonants vs. stable nasals and the segments that resemble the non-nasal realizations of the variable ones. Sets of similar vowels. Aspiration and voicing in stops.

- Tone/stress/intonation: How do different syllables in different words compare with respect to pitch, or intensity, etc.? You might compare nouns in isolation with nouns that appear in phrases or with (what we think are) affixes; sentence contours; etc. (Although, note that we seem to mostly have been getting sentences that are in a very careful speech style.)
- Topics related to morphology or syntax are also possible, depending on what kinds of data we get this week. If you are interested in a non-phonology/phonetics topic, it might be a good idea to get in touch with me early so we can think about it together.

Final data-check in class on Mon 2/28

- On Mon 2/28, each student will have up to 5 minutes to ask Eunsuk for data related to their midterm paper. Elicitation plans are due **no later than 10am** that day for anyone who plans to elicit data.