

## Final project information (1): Types of projects

More specific information about deadlines and requirements will be provided in separate handouts. The purpose of this handout is to get you started thinking about what kind of final project you would like to do.

- (1) The project may be done individually, or in groups of up to 4 people.
  - If you choose to work in a group, you may work with anyone you like (whether they are members of your data-presentation group or not).

### 1. Categories of projects

- (2) Your project will fall into one of the following categories.
  - Grading criteria will be slightly different in the different categories, so you must explicitly assign your project to a category. (If you would like to do a project with a structure that is not represented here, talk with me and it may be possible to work something out.)
    - (a) A **morphological overview** of an unfamiliar language
      - Your paper will have a structure very similar to the data presentations
      - About 25% of the paper will be devoted to theoretical discussion, based either on course readings or on additional research
      - Must not be the same language as your group's data presentation, or one that is too closely related
    - (b) A more detailed investigation of an **interesting morphological phenomenon**, discussed in the context of morphological theory
      - The phenomenon may be examined in one language specifically, or in a small set of languages
      - If you choose this option, you may work on the language from your data presentation
      - Your paper must clearly present the phenomenon, with data to illustrate it; the data may come from a dictionary or a published source, or you may collect it yourself from native speakers, web data, etc.
      - Your paper will discuss the implications of your language data for at least one morphological theory or proposal; the morphological theory or proposal may be either from course reading(s) or from additional research
    - (c) A **summary of a morphological proposal or theory** that we did not discuss in class
      - This will require you to do outside research
      - The paper must show how the model would be applied to language data beyond what your research sources discuss
    - (d) An **explicit comparison** of two morphological proposals or theories
      - Show how the predictions of two proposals or theories are different, and ideally find a way to test which predictions are more successful

## 2. Some suggestions for finding a project topic

The suggestions given here are most useful for projects in categories (b)–(d). (For category (a), look for a language that interests you and has one or more useful linguistic grammars.)

- (3) Here are some examples of general scenarios that might lend themselves to developing a project topic.
- Language L shows morphological phenomenon P. Language M shows a similar, but interestingly different, morphological phenomenon Q. How can the difference between these two cases be expressed in morphological framework X?
  - Language L shows morphological phenomena P and Q that look different on the surface. Does analyzing these phenomena in morphological framework X reveal them to be similar or related in an interesting way?
  - Language L shows morphological phenomenon P. Which morphological framework provides a more insightful analysis, framework X or framework Y?
- (4) Here are some suggestions for how to find a language or a morphological phenomenon of interest.
- Try following some of the links on the Resources page of the course web site
  - Try some of the books, journals, and online paper archives listed on the Supplementary Readings page of the course web site (get there from the Reading List page)
  - Try browsing through linguistics conference proceedings, especially those from the 1970s or 1980s, to find morphological phenomena that might benefit from being discussed in a more modern framework — here are some of the important conference proceedings:
    - Berkeley Linguistics Society (BLS) P11 .B4
    - Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS) P11 .C45
    - North Eastern Linguistic Society (NELS) P21 .N65a
    - West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) P21 .W478