Final project: Methodology plan

Goal of this assignment: Expand on the initial methodology sketch you included in your project proposal, providing the **full details** of how you plan to carry out your project. Incorporate **feedback** from the project topic proposal about the project's scope and focus.

Answer question (1) and question (2), plus *either* question (3) *or* question (4) depending on the structure of your project. **UPDATE: See (5) on citations/references.**

(1) Is your project a **data**-focused project or a **theory**-focused project (according to the criteria on the handout "Choosing a structure for your final project")?

(2) Answer questions (a) and (b) on the handout "Choosing a structure for your final project" for the appropriate category of project. You can elaborate on these simple answer frames as needed, but note that when doing a data-based quantitative project, as question (b) is designed to emphasize, at some level you are comparing numbers of things in your data, so be able to answer this question accordingly.

(3) ***For a data-focused project only:***
Answer question (c) on the handout "Choosing a structure for your final project", incorporating the following additional information.

- What **sources** will you use to collect data? Some examples: a dictionary or corpus, interviews or questionnaires with native speakers, online media, published texts, etc.
- Do you already have **access** to the specific data sources you plan to use? If yes, explain (how many native speakers? which dictionary? which videos? etc.). If no, explain your **plan** for finding or getting access to your data sources. Again, be specific about the number (etc.) of specific data sources you plan to use.
- What specific **categories** of language data will you count or classify? Imagine you are telling a research assistant how to carry out your project: be specific enough that someone else could read your description and do your analysis. Make it clear how your planned study **compares** two or more conditions as in question (1b) on the handout "Choosing a structure for your final project".
  - If you plan to **interview** native speakers or administer a **questionnaire**, include your interview materials or questionnaire as part of this document. Organize the individual items or questions in a way that highlights your project's structure. Then explain how they will be presented to participants (randomized?).
  - If you plan to count the occurrences of different linguistic forms or structures in **existing** language data, explain what **categories** you are analyzing or comparing and exactly what kind of language data would **qualify** as an occurrence of what you are counting.

- Once you have finished counting or classifying your language data, how will you use the numbers you have collected to answer your research question? For example, what values will you compare? What kind of data graphic or plot will you use to present your comparison?

(4) ***For a theory-focused project only:***
Answer questions (c) and (d) on the handout "Choosing a structure for your final project", incorporating the following additional information.

- Answer question (c) by summarizing or describing the crucial evidence that has been presented for each side of the theoretical debate (as you will present it in your project based on your key sources — this does not have be a review of all relevant literature). Show at least one concrete linguistic example of each kind of evidence and explain its relevance to the debate.
- Address question (d):
  - If you have already determined what source you will use to find language data that supports one position in the theoretical debate, identify your source and summarize or describe the evidence. Again, show at least one linguistic example and explain its relevance.
  - If you have not already determined what source you will use to find language data that helps decide this debate, explain your plan for finding data. What kind of data are you looking for, or how do you plan to search for data? (For example: are you searching in the research literature, and if so, for what? Are you planning to collect language data that bears on the question, and if so, from what source?)
  - If you plan to collect your own language data to support a position in the theoretical debate, see question (3) for experiment design factors to report.

(5) Citations/references: As is customary in linguistics writing:

- **Cite your sources** in the text in 'Author (Date)' format
- Give **full bibliographic citations** in a 'References'section at the end

See the citations format webpage for formatting conventions and examples.