Topic proposal

Goal of this assignment: Describe the **research question** that you plan to address in the project and explain, in general terms, what **procedure** you will follow to try to answer it. The proposal should include:

- One or two paragraphs explaining what **research question** your project will ask and what information it will use to try to answer the question.
  - Back up your question/hypothesis with at least one research-oriented citation.
  - State whether you plan to do a **data-focused** or a **theory-focused** project. (See the separate handout "Choosing a structure for your project".)
    - For a data-focused project, **what kind** of data will you examine? How will you **collect** or obtain your data? What **quantitative (numerical) comparisons** will you make in order to answer your research question?
    - For a theory-focused project, what **area** of linguistic theory will you be working in? What are the different **theoretical approaches or proposals** you will be comparing? What is the point of **disagreement or controversy** that you will be addressing? Where will your language **data** for testing the theories come from?
  - Remember to include **linguistics concepts and terminology** from class in your discussion whenever possible. Show me what you have learned this semester.
- A list of at least **three references** that seem relevant (not including required course readings, but optional advanced course readings are allowed). With each reference, give a brief **explanation** of why it is or seems to be important for your project.
  - One of these references may be the article you have used for your article summary.
  - These references are exploratory. (The final version of your project must cite at least *one* linguistically relevant source; at least *two* for a theory-based project.)

Grading criteria: Project proposal

	Excellent (A)	**Competent (B-C)**	**Needs work (D-F)**
Research question	• Research question clear • RQ insightfully based on linguistics citation(s)	• RQ present but unclear • Linguistics citation(s) given, but relation to RQ unclear	• No RQ stated • No linguistics citation(s) given
Connection to course	• Ling concepts, terms from class used where relevant	• Some class concepts/terms used, but some missed	• Many class concepts/ terms missed
Plan (data-focused)	• Data collection plan clear • Data analysis plan clear (measuremt, interpretation) • RQ/data relationship clear	• Data collection plan unclear • Data analysis plan unclear • RQ/data relationship unclear	• No data collection plan • No data analysis plan • No apparent rel'ship / RQ
Plan (theory-focused)	• Theories to compare IDed • Clear what data is relevant	• Only one theory identified • Some data considered	• No theories identified • No data discussed
References	• 3 given • Relevance explained	• 1-2 given • Relevance explained for some	• No refs given • Relevance not explained