

**Discussion questions: Labrune (2012)**

## Alternative for Homework Assignment #3

- If you have background in phonology beyond LING 101 (such as from LING 200 or LING 523), you may choose to complete this alternative to Assignment #3.

Labrune, Laurence [she/her]. 2012. Questioning the universality of the syllable: Evidence from Japanese. *Phonology* 29 (1): 113–152.

Answer the following questions *completely but concisely*, based on the information in the reading (and any other relevant knowledge you might have). Please avoid using direct quotations unless absolutely necessary; you should be able to restate the points made in the reading, using your own words.

- (1) Labrune (2012) makes a number of arguments that the syllable plays no role in the phonology of Japanese. Choose one argument that you find to be comparatively weak, summarize it, and explain why you find Labrune's argument not entirely convincing.
- (2) Now choose one argument from Labrune's discussion that you find comparatively strong. Summarize it. What do you think someone who holds the position that syllables are in fact universal would have to say to make a case against Labrune's position? Which argument on this point, pro-syllable or anti-syllable, do you find more convincing?

*After* you have attempted these questions on your own, if you would like to see the other side of the debate, you might like to have a look at Kawahara (2016).

Kawahara, Shigeto [he/him]. 2016. Japanese has syllables: A reply to Labrune. *Phonology* 33 (1): 169–194.