Linguistics 274 Final Project Guidelines
Due date: 19 March 2010

February 17, 2010

First of all, *I prefer if you work in small groups of 2-3*. You learn more that way and usually wind up with better work. Just give me a brief statement of who did what, together with the final writeup.

Some students like to do some kind of dataset analysis for their final projects. I encourage this. There are three situations here:

1. You have your own dataset. You define your own analysis and carry it out.
2. You don’t have your own dataset, but you are planning to collect some sort of data soon and want practice analyzing it. In this situation, you can lay out the type of data you might encounter, and generate artificial data of this sort. Then you can look at the consequences of analyzing it in several different ways.
3. You’d like to analyze someone else’s dataset. This is totally fine. There are lots of datasets to analyze; ask me if you don’t have any at hand.

Alternatively, your final project can be some purely computational simulation of some aspect of human language comprehension, production, or acquisition, or perhaps of language change. In this case, you may not have your own dataset.

In all cases, I’d like to see a brief (less than 1 page) summary of your project plans, including a list of project team members, by **Wednesday 24 February 2010**.

For the final project writeup, I don’t have strict length requirements, but a good project writeup will tend to be between 5 and 9 pages of text, plus code & graphs. Make sure you give me enough plain-English context that I understand the problem at a conceptual level.

As a heads-up, I will be leaving town 17 March 2010 for the CUNY Sentence Processing Conference in New York. So don’t wait till the last minute to ask me questions!