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Internet Linguistics Final Project

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Final project

Your final project is the opportunity for you to explore some question in Internet Linguistics that interests you!

Final products

You will produce two final products: one academic paper, and one public-facing product.

The **paper** should follow the norms of a standard academic paper. You should cite at least 3 pieces of scholarly literature *beyond* what we read for class. You should introduce a question or hypothesis, methods, data, and draw conclusions. The audience for this is me, your classmates, and (potentially) a wider academic community.

The **public-facing** product is where you get to be more creative with form. What audience do you want to share this with, and how would that best be achieved? You get to choose an audience and a format. You might record a video for youtube; edit/create Wikipedia pages; create a webcomic; write a blog post with links to relevant information; create a BuzzFeed-style quiz; write a listicle (#7 will shock you!); make a game; or other options.

Choosing a question

More than a topic, I encourage you to choose a *question*: Is there a gender difference in the use of emojis? How do Zoom classroom norms develop across half a semester of remote instruction?

This could be an expansion of one of your earlier assignments, or something completely different.

I recommend reading the chapter on research questions in linguistics, assigned for 3/30, as a way of thinking about writing good research questions.

Another good way to find a question is to look at the materials we've encountered so far: what questions did they identify as needing further research? What questions did you have when you read/listened/viewed that you wanted to answer?

Please submit a few sentences about your thoughts by **11:59pm, Sunday, March 29**. This could be draft questions, some thoughts, or just "I don't know! Help!"

Developing research questions

Use the chart on p. 25 of the chapter about research questions to develop your plan. You might at this point have one question, a big question with sub-questions, or a set of questions. Consider

what data you will need to answer your questions, how you'll get it, and how you will analyze it.

Data exploration

Gather at least some of your data to begin answering your question. Along the lines of the short data exploration assignments we've done so far, look at some of it to begin answering your questions. We'll share these with each other.

This is an opportunity to start working with your data and get feedback. Please turn this in by **11:59pm, Sunday April 12.**

Draft of paper or public-facing project

Submit a draft of (part of) (at least) one of the final products (academic paper or public-facing project) by **11:59pm, Sunday April 26** to be used in peer editing. This can be as draft-y as you want, but the more you have done, the more useful feedback is likely to be.

Presentation

Prepare a brief (5-10-minute) presentation of your project to share **in class on Monday, April 27.** Include your question, at least some examples from your data, and analysis/conclusions. Either show or describe your public-facing project, including the audience you hope to address and the format you used for that.

Final products

Submit the final paper and public-facing project by the end of finals period.

Evaluation & Flexibility

tbh, if you put in solid work on this, that's what I'm looking for. I know you have the skills to do this based on your data exploration assignments and regular written work.

In the paper, I'm looking for clear organization; a statement of a research question; a description of methods and data collection that explains why this was an appropriate way to answer your question; presentation of sufficient data and analysis to convince me of your conclusions; and a discussion/conclusion that explains why this matters (the *so what?* of the paper).

In the public-facing project, I'm looking for a product that reaches a particular audience, and that is appropriate for your goals and the medium you present it in. You still have to communicate

your question, data, and findings, in a way that is appropriate for the format you choose.
Creativity is a plus.

This is a very, very strange time. I'm planning this assignment as if it's a normal semester, but in reality it is not. If necessary, we'll reevaluate as we go along.