Linguistics 610 Fall 2022 **Squib assignment**

   Due Thursday, **December 15**

  [One page **'proposal' due Monday, November 14**. This should
lay out the key data, and briefly, but clearly, state what the issue
is.]
In no more than 10 pages [2 spacing, 1 inch margins] discuss some
data or phenomenon (from English or any other language) in terms of
theoretical considerations discussed or alluded to in class. I want
to see something 'new', rather than just a summary (no matter how
brilliant) of something we have discussed in class, or that you have
read.

You might show how your phenomenon is easily accommodated by some
rule or principle you have seen. Or, on the other hand, you might
show exactly how your phenomenon creates problems for some proposal.
In the latter case, you may, if you like, propose some new rule,
principle, etc. that solves the problem **but this is not required**.

Don't confuse this task with writing a thesis, or even a term paper.
But the problem must be clearly articulated, and difficulties with
potential solutions presented. Whatever you do, be explicit about
the paradigms of data, rules, constraints, derivations, etc. that
are involved. I strongly advise you to keep the topic small. Once
you have picked a potential topic, check with me if you like.

I will provide comments on your squib, and a grade, but a low grade
will count extremely little towards your course grade. You must turn
in a squib, and, obviously, try to do a good job. But don't worry
about trying to make it publishable. I just want you to start
thinking about how to collect data, find generalizations (or counter-
examples), and relate what you find to theoretical claims you are
familiar with. Keep in mind that **the emphasis in this assignment is
discussion/analysis of data, rather than scholarship**. I don't expect
(or recommend) that you read and report on all (or even any) of the
potentially relevant literature on your topic.

{{The term 'squib' comes from a section of the journal Linguistic
Inquiry that presents short papers that (often) raise problems but
without necessarily solving them.}}