

Linguistics 611 Spring 2009

Squib+ assignment

Due Tuesday May 12

[[Max. 2 page 'proposal' due Tuesday, April 14. This should lay out the key data, and briefly, but clearly, state what the issue is. Also include a bibliography of half a dozen or so entries.]]

In no more than 15 pages [1-1/2 or 2 spacing, 1 inch margins; there is not enough room for our comments if you single space and/or use narrow margins] discuss some data or phenomenon (from English or any other language) in terms of minimalist theoretical considerations discussed or alluded to in class. We 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. A plausible direction for a solution, with some pros and cons, will suffice.

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. We strongly advise you to keep the topic small. Expanding on your 610 squib is entirely appropriate.

Deadlines:

Squib+ proposal April 14

Squib+ May 12