Task Description:
The last step of this project is to think about the kind of larger project you would like to work on as a team. Come up with 2-3 proposals for the kinds of project questions you would like to attempt to answer. In each proposal, I would like you to include:

1. A short paragraph setting up the background of the project. What is the phenomenon you're looking at, and why is it linguistically interesting? When choosing a proposal topic, think about:
    a. What subfields you'd like to be working in
    b. Whether the phenomenon could be investigated with a corpus or dataset
    c. A description of the populations who might produce the date you're interested in
    d. The kinds of data sources you might best find examples of your phenomenon in (social media? News broadcasts? Historical texts? Novels? Poetry? Song Lyrics? Closed captions? Subtitles? etc…)
2. At least 2 examples of the phenomenon you're looking at (perhaps with other relevant, contrasting data).
3. Citations for **2 linguistic sources** (articles, book chapters, corpora of interest, etc…) that give a bit of background on the phenomenon you are looking at.

Proposal 1

😭/😂/💀 (maybe 🗿 too?) context similarities

1. This project is about emojis that are used differently than their "intended meaning". In particular, 😭 is sobbing, 😂 is tears of joy or crying with laughter, 💀 is a skull, and 🗿 is a moyai statue. It was found that these emojis are used synonymously on social media (e.g., Twitter) in certain contexts despite the intended meanings being different. Since this topic pertains to meaning and will be using data from Twitter, this will be a semantics project investigated with a corpus. The population that might produce the data we're interested in is social media users in their teenage years to mid-twenties. The data source that would be best to find examples of this phenomenon is on social media, particularly on Twitter because of the vast amount of data that can be found.
2. Examples of the phenomenon:
    - "You eating butter by itself? 💀" twitter link
    - "When u drink a lot of liquids and you can hear it sloshing around in ur stomach wen u run up the stairs 💀💀" twitter link
    - "PLEASE not the womp womp sound effect 😭😭" twitter link
    - "bro a 30 min drive is NOT far 😭😭" twitter link
    - "If you can leave me on read for hours and sleep comfortably, you don't love me fr 😂😂😂" twitter link
    - "You ever been in the car with someone who drives like we got extra live 😂😂" twitter link
    - "what does this have to do with me?? 🗿 🗿" twitter link
    - "i opened sims 4 at 2 am then sat there staring at the screen for 45 minutes before closing it 🗿 🗿 🗿" twitter link
    - Relevant, contrasting data would be the use of these emojis in different contexts. There are plenty of examples for these as well.

3. Linguistic sources:
    - Danesi. (2017). The semiotics of Emoji. Bloomsbury Academic. ucsc library link
    - McCulloch. (2019). *Because internet: understanding the new rules of language*. Riverhead Books. ucsc library link
    - Weissman, & Tanner, D. (2018). A strong wink between verbal and emoji-based irony: How the brain processes ironic emojis during language comprehension. PloS One, 13(8), e0201727–e0201727. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0201727 ucsc library link

Proposal 2

This proposal focuses on the phonology of English loanwords in Japanese and whether they are regular and/or can be computationally described/automated. In Japanese, English loanwords are usually written in the form of the Katakana alphabet. As it turns out, English => Japanese loanwords undergo a fairly complicated process when converting to Japanese phonology. This process involves phonetic, phonemic, orthographical and historical considerations. While a computational tool to calculate these loanwords would no doubt be a massive undertaking when considering the entirety of Japanese (Optimality theory is far more suited to this), examining a small set (perhaps of inputs we know have regular outputs) could be a far more in scope project. Some examples of English loanwords written Japanese:

	Romanization	**Japanese**
Beer	biiru	ビール
Bus	basu	バス
Coffee	koohii	コーヒー
Disneyland	dizuniirando	ディズニーランド
Google	guuguru	グーグル
Kit Kat	kittokatto	キットカット
McDonalds	makudonarudo	マクドナルド
Starbucks	sutaabakkusu	スターバックス
Taxi	takushii	タクシー

Or another idea is to focus on Japanese loanwords in English. Such as

	Romanization	**Japanese**
Karaoke	karaoke	カラオケ
Ramen	raamen	ラーメン

(the words above are written in the Katakana alphabet)

Sushi	sushi	すし
Typhoon	taifuu	たいふう
Tsunami	tsunami	つなみ

(the words above are written in the Hiragana alphabet)

Sources:

- Mae, Hulden (2016). How Regular is Japanese Loanword Adaptation? A Computational Study. Conference on Computational Linguistics https://aclanthology.org/C16-1081.pdf
- Mutsukawa (2006) Japanese loanword phonology in Optimality Theory: The nature of inputs and the loanword sublexicon. Michigan State University https://doi.org/doi:10.25335/M5K64B369