

**Assignment 1***Prospectus*

Phase 1 of the research paper writing

Due: Sunday 4/23 at 11:59pm (PT)

- Instructions for submission: please type your responses and turn in the assignment as a **PDF** and upload the file on *BruinLearn* through the Tab 'Assignments'.
- Length of the *Prospectus*: about two / three pages
- Total points: **20**

GUIDELINES

The *Prospectus* of your paper represents the initial phase of your research. In the *Prospectus* you need to include the following components:

1. The topic: what is the topic of your paper in morphology?

This could be a specific aspect of morphology that you find particularly interesting in a language you are familiar with or a language that you want to explore in terms of its morphology. The object of your research can also be more than one language: in this case, it is important to clarify why you'll work on more than one language.

2. The initial literature review: what has been written about your topic?

Before you begin writing your *Prospectus*, you should look at some of the existent research available on the topic you want to study. This is necessary to be aware of what has already been written on your topic and how that would impact your research. Also, it will help you to understand what gaps there are in the literature that you could fill.

For this step, you might want to consult all the available resources on campus, including the YRL section of Linguistics.

3. The research question(s): What are the leading questions for your research?

Once you have an idea of what scientific outputs are available about the topic you chose, you should define your research question.

This should be one of more clear and specific questions that you want to answer in your paper.

4. The plan for data gathering: how do you intend to collect the data you are going to discuss in your paper?

All the claims you make have to be supported by evidence. Therefore, you need to collect evidence in the shape of linguistic data from the language you want to investigate.

Where are you going to find such data? From native speakers? Published language description? Available databases?

5. The preliminary essential bibliographical references: what sources did you consult that the reader should be aware of?

At the end, you should write a preliminary list of bibliographical references. This should include all of the sources that you have consulted so far in your research.

Finally, consider that you might find this initial phase challenging. It is entirely normal! We're here to help.

***How are we going to grade this assignment?***

- We will check your **knowledge of the morphological concepts** we covered so far in lectures, sections, and reading.
- We will evaluate how **you apply the morphological concepts** we covered so far in lectures, sections, and reading in your *Prospectus*.
- We will evaluate the **structure of your *Prospectus***. You might want to follow the structure suggested in the Guidelines or follow another structure.
- We will consider clarity, exhaustiveness, and precision in your writing.
- Finally, we will look for **your critical mind**, i.e. your justified point of view, especially in the formulation of the research questions.

Overall, the prospectus should be well-written, clear, and organized, with precise research questions supported by an initial literature review.