

Assignment 2
Midpoint Development
Phase 2 of the research paper writing

Due: Sunday 5/14 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 *Midpoint Development*: about four / five pages
- Total points: **27**

GUIDELINES

The *Midpoint Development* of Your paper represents the second phase of your research.

The general idea of the Midpoint Development is to expand, refine, enhance, and add up to what you already wrote in the first assignment.

In this phase you need to include the below components and thoroughly follow the structure provided.

You can build this assignment on the basis of your Prospectus and re-use the relevant material that you already presented, provided that you performed a review of the Prospectus based on the comments you received from the instructors.

Structure and Description

1. Introduction: what is the specific topic of your paper? What language(s) are you investigating? In the introduction you need to state what specific aspect of morphology you are working on. Give a brief description (i.e. a reasoned definition) of the phenomenon, pattern, process, issue, puzzle etc. under exam. Also, you need to briefly present the language(s) you are exploring.

2. The updated literature review: what has been written about your topic? Summarize the main findings.

As you research work advances, you will consult a number of sources.

For this assignment an initial literature review is required. The goal of this section is to show that you are aware of the existing research on the selected topic. More specifically, you are asked to summarize the previous relevant findings published in papers, books, articles, book chapters etc. the student could also analyze corpora of the language(s) under investigation.

3. The updated research question(s): What are the leading questions you strive to answer through your study?

The focus of your research is reflected in the leading questions you formulate. Restate them here. As you know, research questions should be clear, precise, and focused. Also, they should be designed to answer the specific objectives of the study.

4. The method for data gathering: how are you collecting the data that represent the empirical evidence of your argumentation?

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?

You can pick from a range of methods, depending on the nature of the research questions and the availability of resources. For example, you could conduct “fieldwork”, i.e. you can conduct interviews though questionnaires to collect data from native speakers of the language(s) under investigation. Alternatively or additionally, you could use available available linguistic databases, archives, as well as language descriptions to analyze the morphology of the language(s) in question.

5. Presentation and description of some essential data

Provide a contained presentation of some of the data you collected. You might want to present to the reader(s) some of the key examples that clarify the core aspects of the morphological aspect(s) you are investigating.

You need to present your examples in the three-line way of presenting linguistic data and make use of the glossing. For example:

- a. ameremo (standard Italian)
love.IND.FUT.1PL
'We will love.'
- b. il capotreno (standard Italian)
DEF.DET.MSG [chief.MSG-train.MSG].MSG
'the train conductor'
- c. Potrei prendere un calzone piccolo con formaggio.
can.COND.1SG get.INF INDEF.DET.MSG calzone.MSG small.MSG with cheese.MSG
'I could get a small cheese calzone.' (standard Italian)

Please note that if in your language(s) a different writing system than the English one is used, you should transliterate your examples into English/Roman alphabet.

6. The updated bibliographical references: what sources did you consult that the reader should be aware of?

You should compile a list of bibliographical references. This should include all of the sources that you have consulted so far in your research. Place your list at the end of the assignment.

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 *Midpoint Development***. You need to follow the structure suggested in the Guidelines.
- 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 the data.