455 Mid-Term Project

For this project, you may choose one of two options: a Conversational Analysis based on Hymes’ SPEAKING model *(cf Chapter 6 slides)* or a sociolinguistic analysis of a country.

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**
- 1000-1250 words (4 – 5 pages: reference page & appendixes don’t count)
  - But… shorter is better than BS…
  - MLA format + Times New Roman, 12 pt., double spaced
- Use academic references as defined below (textbook, journal articles &/or books)
  - *Wikipedia* may be on OK place to get ideas, but don’t stop there *(don’t source it)*
- Address Peer Review comments. In a brief appendix, discuss how your peer’s comments caused you to revise or explain why the comments were irrelevant

**SPECIFICS**

*Conversational Analysis*
- Using the acronym presented in the slides for chapter 6, examine a naturally occurring and recurring speech situation. The situation should have a clear beginning and end, AND should have direct relevance to at least one of the major concepts from the textbook (variation, politeness, gender, power, solidarity, etc).
- You may use your own personal experience [you should experience this live: memory alone fails most people most of the time] or a movie or TV show scene.
- Your Conversational Analysis should include what happens as well as why these things happen… The ‘what’ should be guided by the SPEAKING components. The ‘why’ may be integrated with the ‘what’ or placed in a section of its own.
- Support your analysis “why” with information from at least two academic sources *(e.g., your textbook and an article from an academic journal)*.

*Sociolinguistic Analysis of a Country*
- Explore the sociolinguistic features of the country of your choice (not the U.S.).
- While you can choose any country, you are responsible to discuss information relevant to our text and class discussions. Your analysis should have direct relevance to at least one of the major concepts from the textbook (variation, politeness, gender, power, solidarity, etc). If you don’t find interesting and relevant information about a given country, choose a different country or do a conversational analysis!
- Unlike the conversational analysis, most of the information for this choice should come from reliable, academic, sociolinguistically oriented sources. Do not rely on your own perceptions even if you are a native of the country you are discussing.
- Build your analysis on information from at least three academic sources *(e.g., your textbook, a reliable & prestigious sociolinguistically focused website, and an academic journal article)*.

**NOTE:** Other related topics may be acceptable. Please check creative ideas with me *after* doing some preliminary investigation but *before* investing hours of serious research time.