455 Final Research Project

This project could be considered an ‘Action Research’ or ‘Service-Learning’ project, or may be a simplified version of a more traditional linguistic investigation.

‘Action Research’ and ‘Service Learning’ projects imply that you, the researcher, become an active participant in a study-able situation and observe and reflect at the same time (cf. ethnology in Chapter 6).

A simplified version of traditional research might mean replicating Labov (or someone else)’s research to see if their results hold true for a different time/population/situation.

Talk to your classmates (&/or me) about your research both before and during your investigation… (Two heads are better than one…)

You should begin this project WELL in ADVANCE of the due date… This is NOT a paper you can do at the last minute… either finding the topic or doing the research.

Requirements:

- 8-12 pages (reference page & appendixes don’t count)
  - But… shorter is better than BS…
  - MLA format + Times New Roman, 12 pt., double spaced
- Minimum of 4 academic references (peer reviewed journals &/or books)

Suggested Outline: (Using headings is often helpful…)

Abstract (Optional, but targets the real thing.)

I. Introduction
   a. Others research
   b. Foundation for the study

II. Expectations
   a. (Null) Hypothesis
   b. Research question

III. Methods
   a. Informants
   b. How will you collect the data
   c. How you will analyze

IV. Analysis
   a. Text
   b. Tables &/or charts
   c. A little of each…

V. Summary & Conclusions
   a. Key points from the analysis
   b. Meaningful points you can extrapolate from those key points

VI. Closing
   a. Wrap up the paper (traditional conclusion)