

Project 1 – Grammatical Variation in French - Licence Instruction 2018 Sociolinguistics

NOTE – There will be no DST in Second Session – if you do not pass the project (or 1st session more generally), you will have to re-submit the project in 2nd session
Remember – no exam for second session, instead re-submission of project (yes, there is no way out of it)

Length

The report should be as short as possible. DO not omit anything you need, but do not waffle.

Structure

The report will use IMRaD structure (Intro, Method, Results and Discussion)

Each of the four sections should be clearly labelled and numbered

Section 1

Here you need to do two things

- a. Introduce the **problematic**. What is the problematic (or question) why is it important (or interesting). What will it explain in the world? If you want you can link it to some of the theory we have seen.
- b. Propose at least one **hypothesis** (but preferably 2). The hypotheses should answer seek to resolve the problematic, answer the question it poses. They should be clear and stated as hypotheses (as we discussed in class)

It would be good if at least hypothesis is purely social (where you create a table of **who thinks what is grammatical**) and a purely semantic hypothesis (**what is more grammatical with respect to a semantic feature** such as size of the city etc.). Here you can contrast *à* vs. *sur* or you can contrast the two opposing semantic features.

Don't forget, you can work on subsets of data, such only native speakers or only older people etc. etc.

If you do, don't forget to report it!

Section 1 should not be more 2 or 3 couple of paragraphs.

Section 2

Here you describe the questionnaire, what we did, what we didn't do (but should have), problems you had.

It is a very simple section where describe doing the experiment, collecting the data etc.

It should be as long as needed. Probably a couple of paragraphs.

Section 3

Here you present the results:

Tables with numerical summaries of the results for each hypothesis you tested

Make sure that each table is numbered and given a label (a title!)

Explain each table, refer to it and say what is summarised in the text. You have to use the number of the table when referring to it.

You can make some **graphs** to visualise your tables if you want. Give each a name and a number

For each table, you need to run a **test for significance**, a chi-squared is perfect. Report the p-value and explain it.

If your results are significant, you should examine the **correlations** expressed in the residuals.

Section 4

Here you discuss your results. Were they significant? What does that tell us? More specially the correlations, do they actually explain what you hoped to explain? Were they not significant? Why might that be the case? Is your hypothesis wrong or was there something wrong with the study? Not enough data?

At this stage it is important you bring the discussion back to the introduction.

Also, at this stage, you can relate your results to broader theoretical questions that we considered in the course. You can do that here even if you did not do it in the introduction

Submission Please submit by the 12th May. This is to make sure that if there are any problems, I have time to get back to you to resolve them.

Submit to: studentwork.glynnp8@gmail.com
(cut and paste the email!)

Email subject “PROJECT SOCIOLING”

- a. Make sure you add your name and student number to the report, if you forget either, you will not receive a mark
- b. Make sure you add your name to the actual file name
- c. Make sure you send your report, **the excel sheet you used and your working in R** (cut and paste into a text file)
- d. Please use Times New Roman at 11 point for the report – and follow the style sheet on line!

Marking Scale

The final mark is out of 20

5/20 – quantity / quality of questionnaires

5/20 – reasoning of the hypothesis

5/20 – reasoning of interpretation

5/20 – quality of report

Total out of 20

Sociolinguistics Steps

Licence Instructions 2019

THINK – Hypotheses and Choice of Data

1. Choose one purely social variable, which you believe, may explain the variation.
2. Choose one purely semantic variable, which you believe may explain the variation

DO – Creating cross-tabulations and Chi-Squared test

3. Sort the data if you need to – don't forget that you may wish/ need to examine sub groups, such as all French speakers or only educated speakers *etc etc*.
4. Choose the columns that correspond to the variables in the first hypothesis
5. Create numeric tables (cross-tabulations)
6. Test the tables for significant differences in the sample
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 for different levels of granularity for each of the variables
8. Calculate Pearson residuals for the results of the Chi-Squared Test

THINK – Interpretation

9. Interpret the results – significance: Is there a significant difference? If so, what does that mean? If not, what does that mean?
10. Interpret the results – residuals: if the results are significant, what are the correlations and anti-correlations? Do they support or falsify your hypothesis?

** Re-do steps 3-8 for the 2nd hypothesis

DO – Report

11. Copy your working in R into a text file and save it with your name. Save your excel file and add your name to this file as well.
12. Write the short report

Report, Data and Working

The report should be short and simple.

It should contain 3 short sections. If the whole report takes more than a page (**excluding tables and graphs!!!**), it is too long.

1. Problematic

Explain the grammatical problem the study tries to solve. This should take only a few sentences.

2. Hypotheses

What are the two hypotheses you propose to explain the variation? Add why you chose those hypotheses, if you want to. This should only take a few sentences.

3. Results

Make sure you are clear about which hypothesis your results refer to.

For each hypothesis:

3.1. Raw figures:

What were your results, the actual numbers in the cross-tabulations? Copy and paste them into the report. Try to present them well (hint, use the font “Courier”) and / or put them in a table. If you want, you can also make a graphic representation from excel, such a pie chart or a histogram.

Make sure you explain which level of granularity you used

Make sure you explain any sub-sets of data you used.

3.2. Significance:

Was a significant difference observed in the sample? What was p -value? Add the result of the Chi-Squared test

3.3 Correlations:

If a significant difference was found, provide the results of the Pearson residuals.

Do the residuals support or falsify your hypothesis?

Write a couple of sentences interpreting the correlations and anti-correlations observed.