Project / Report – Grammatical Variation in French - Licence Instructions 2020-2021 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 labeled and numbered

Section 1: Introduction

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 seek to resolve the problematic, that is, answer the question it poses. They should be clear and stated as hypotheses (as we discussed in class)

If you test two hypotheses, one should be a social hypothesis and the other a semantic hypothesis.

A semantic hypothesis is one where it is the meaning of *sur* and *à* that distinguishes their use. For example, the size of the city they are used to talk about would be a difference in meaning.

A social hypothesis is one where the meaning does not change but the type of speaker changes. For example, maybe men find *sur* more grammatical than women, regardless of the meaning of *sur* and *à*.

Important!

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

Don’t forget to report on the subset you are working on - it is vital.

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

Section 2: Method

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 you describe doing the experiment, collecting the data etc.

It should be as long as needed - probably a couple of paragraphs.

Section 3: Results

Here you present the results:

Tables

You should add numerical summaries of the results for each hypothesis you tested in the form of tables.

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

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

For example: "Table 2 presents the distribution of monkeys in the lower Amazon."

Figures

In scientific reports, graphs are called "figures". You can make some graphs to visualise the tables if you want. Give each graph a name and a number. Again you must refer to it in the text.

For example: "Figure 4 shows the differences in monkey size across the Loire valley"

Significance

For each result, you need to run a **test for significance**. In class we did the chi-squared test.

Report the *p*-value and explain it.

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

I will send a separate set of instructions for this.

Section 4: Discussion

Here you discuss your results. Were they significant? What does that tell us? More specifically, the correlations, do they actually explain what you hoped to explain? If the results were 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 Jan.

I will be online everyday - if you want to talk, we can skype. My skype is izmoros. Just email me (dsg.up8@gmail.com) the day before and we can fix a time to talk.

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 file name (e.g.: Sociolinguistics_Report_Macron.docx"

c. Make sure you send your report**, the excel sheet you used and your working in R** (cut and paste into a text file) - this is to help me see what you did, in case something has gone wrong.

d. Please use Times New Roman at 11 point for the report – and follow the style sheet on line! I will also attach it.

Marking Scale

The final mark is out of 15

5/20 – reasoning of the hypothesis

5/20 – reasoning of interpretation

5/20 – quality of report including use of style sheet

Sociolinguistics Steps

Licence Instructions 2020

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.