LINGUISTICS 205

Research Project

YOU ARE THE RESEARCHER/PROFESSOR

This research project is your opportunity to explore an area of linguistic anthropology that fascinates you. You will be conducting research and presenting your results in paper format.

# RESEARCH PROCEDURES

* Select a topic from our syllabus to explore in more depth *or* negotiate with Alina for another topic. Your study needs to be within the parameters of this course.
* Develop your research question. (What do you want to know about this topic?)
* Find information about your topic from various types of sources: articles, books, videos/DVDs, and observations; however, at least two of these sources must be academic sources (questions? Please come and talk to me!). Take notes on your information, but write them in your own words. Cite your sources. Give credit in your paper to the people who shared their information with you.
* Write an 8-10 page typed paper (double spaced) to summarize your project.

Your paper will include these elements:

* Introduction to your topic and your question
* Discussion of what you learned
* Conclusion
* Works Cited/References/Bibliography

Please use the MLA format for your paper.

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# TOPIC SUGGESTIONS

1. BILINGUAL/MULTILINGUAL communities or nations: Study a community or nation and explain who uses which language and why. Explain the social implications of using these languages.
2. ENGLISH ONLY or the ENGLISH PLUS movement: Study the history of one of these movements. Explain how and why it began. Using recent articles, predict the future of this movement.

1. GLOBAL ENGLISH: Research the varying forms of English as it is used (officially) in other parts of the world. For example, you can compare English in two or three areas, such as: Britain, Canada, Australia, South Africa, South Asia, South-East Asia, and the South Pacific.
2. AAVE: African-American Vernacular English. There is still much to discover about this topic.
3. SAPIR-WHORF HYPOTHESIS: We have talked about this hypothesis, but you can go into more depth with your study. This topic is central to any study of language and culture.
4. LANGUAGE AND GENDER: There is much more to research and present on this fascinating topic.
5. AN ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY: Find an informant from another speech community. Develop questions to ask your informant and report your results. For example, you may want to discover more about the community’s CONVERSATIONAL STYLES, RULES OF POLITENESS, PROVERBS, NARRATIVES, GENDER & language.
6. NARRATIVES across cultures. Discover what narratives various communities use to convey such important cultural information as how to behave properly, what is considered right and wrong, and how courting relationships are supposed to progress. If you are interested in the stories of indigenous peoples across the world, this project would be very exciting.
7. LANGUAGE LOSS: Research a language that may die out anywhere in the world. Discuss the people who use/used this language. Discuss what, if anything, is being done to prevent this loss.
8. PIDGINS/CREOLES: Research a Pidgin or Creole and present your findings to the class.

1. YOUR PROPOSAL: You may propose a project to your instructor.