

**Introduction to Linguistic Analysis  
LING 470**

**GRADUATE STUDENT REQUIREMENT:  
SQUIB**

**What is a squib?**

*“A squib is a pattern of facts that you find interesting along with an exploration of their possible significance. You might discover these facts yourself, as you sit in class, talk with friends, or read the newspaper - or you might read them in a reference grammar or linguistics book.”*

- The squib should contain a description of a phenomenon, or a set of data, a discussion of why it is interesting (e.g., does it not conform to what we expect?...), and if possible, a suggestion of how to analyze the data (though a perfect solution is not required or expected!).

**General requirements**

- Your squib should be approximately 5 typed pages, double spaced, 12 point font, Times or Times New Roman, 1 inch margins. For a phonetic font, use DoulosSIL.
- Be consistent with your formatting (e.g., references, citations, etc.) – follow the style sheet of the Linguistic Society of America’s journal *Language* <http://www.lsadc.org/info/pubs-lang-style.cfm>.
- You must include a central question or problem that is clearly stated, and the squib should then revolve around that question/problem.

**Some suggestions to get you started**

- Think about how the linguistic theories that we have been discussing in this class relates to your own research interests. Present a problem or issue and how you might going about solving that problem.
- Choose a set of data that we have not looked at in class and show/discuss how it is/is not accounted for by the theories we have been developing in class. If the data cannot be accounted for by the theory, try to suggest how to change/improve the theory.

**Due date**

- Your squib is due **in my office Wednesday December 16 by 11am**. Make sure you submit your squib directly to me (i.e., do not slip it under my office door). I will be in my office from 10:00am on the day it is due. If you cannot drop it off by 11:00am, please contact me to make alternate arrangements.

If you are stuck or having problems coming up with a topic or are struggling with some data, etc., please feel free to contact me as I am happy to discuss it with you.