

Week 6

- Two types of intransitive verbs: unaccusative and unergative

(Quiz and ps2 looked good.)

Next:

- Recess week!
- (Tuesday 10:30am: office hours)
- Friday, September 25: take-home test 1
- Mid-term survey
- After the test: Case and agreement

Take-home test 1

(formerly known as a “quiz”)

- The problems will be available on Luminus > Files from Thursday night midnight. Submit your answers by Friday night midnight.
- The test should take two hours. (I would recommend that you) don't spend more time on it.
- The test is open book/notes but must be done alone.
 - **Do not** communicate about the test with other living beings (especially your classmates).
 - All problems are designed to be answered based on the material presented in class/the readings, without referencing any other material. You *can* consult other non-living things, but to be honest it may be more likely to confuse you rather than be helpful.
- Your answers should be in the same format as problem sets: PDFs, preferably typed, with your name in the file. Submit on Luminus > Files > Student submission > Test 1.
- Ask me about problem 1.

1. What language will you study for your language report?

(1 point)

From the syllabus: Students will study one aspect of an unfamiliar language through elicitation with a native speaker. Guidelines on possible topics will be given later. The language must be a language that (a) you are not a native speaker of and (b) cannot be English, Singlish, Mandarin Chinese, or Singapore Malay. Should be approximately ten pages. Due **Saturday, November 7th**.

Handout with detailed instructions and topic suggestions online: click on "language report."

Process

Two methodologies are used in *elicitation*: *translation* and *judgment* tasks. An effective strategy is to go back and forth between them:

1. Translation → receive sentence that we know is acceptable
2. Change the sentence *minimally* → ask for judgment
3. Repeat 2 or go back to 1

(More details on the handout.)

Two resources for writing:

- **The best, clearest guide I know for how to write a paper in linguistics: Newmeyer 1998.**
I keep a (slightly annotated) copy here: <https://mitcho.com/teaching/newmeyer1988.pdf>.
- The ELL Writing Center: contact Aparna Shukla aparnashukla@u.nus.edu.

Key terms

Make sure you are familiar with these terms. You should be able to define or describe these concepts and (if appropriate) identify and give examples.

- competence vs performance
- I-language vs E-language
- phrase/constituent structure
 - constituent, phrase, projection
 - head, complement, specifier, adjunct
 - root, leaf, branching vs non-branching
 - mother, daughter, sister
 - endocentricity
 - c-command
 - label, project, Merge, Adjoin
- features
 - strength: strong vs weak features
 - ϕ -features
 - uninterpretable
 - selectional, inflectional
- thematic roles:
 - agent, theme, goal
 - UTAH (Uniformity of Theta Alignment Hypothesis)
- Hierarchy of Projections
- movement
 - head movement
 - phrasal movement
- EPP (Extra Peripheral Position requirement)
- trace
- VP-Internal Subject Hypothesis
- Unaccusative Hypothesis
 - unaccusative, unergative
- noun phrases
 - R-expression
 - reflexive pronoun
 - Binding Conditions A, B, C
 - bound pronoun
 - antecedent
 - *wh*-word
 - expletive

Questions!