LING440 – LAB5

Due Friday May 3

For this final lab, you are asked to come up with an idea for a potential experiment that investigates some aspect of language processing and write a short proposal about it. This idea can (and likely will) follow from work that we’ve discussed in class, but it should have some novel element to it such that it is not identical to the experiments that you’ve already heard about. This is a chance to pick up on some topic of psycholinguistic research that you found especially interesting and get creative, so have fun with it!

The write-up should be at least two pages long, single-spaced. It should include all the following sections (please read the directions carefully):

**Introduction and Background** – at least one full paragraph reviewing (and citing) the previous literature on this topic that is relevant to your idea. This should include at least 3 citations, could well be more than that. You are welcome to either stick to the papers we’ve read in class (and the findings cited by those papers) or to go beyond that by using resources like Google Scholar.

**Current Question of Interest** – at least one paragraph explicitly stating the question of interest in your study, why you think it’s an interesting question, and stating what method you will use and why. Include at least one sentence that describes how society might someday benefit from knowing the answer to this question (the benefit does not have to be immediate).

**Design** – one paragraph (or table) illustrating the design (that is, the conditions that will be examined).

**Materials** – at least one paragraph describing the key properties of the linguistic materials you will be using: how many items in total would be needed, what properties would need to be controlled, etc. Make sure to discuss any practical challenges that will arise in making stimuli—you don’t have to solve them, but just note them.

**Methods** – at least one paragraph describing the procedure for running the experiment: what equipment will be used to collect data, what instructions the participants will be given, the timing with which stimuli will be presented, how long the experiment will last, etc. If you’re unsure about what kind of information to include, it may help to consult an article that used the same methodology.

**Possible results** – describe different patterns of results that could be observed (at least two), and explain for each what could be concluded if this were the outcome.

**Bibliography** – in APA format