LING440 – Experiment Proposal

As your last written assignment, 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 <u>novel</u> 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!

On this assignment I'm giving you an opportunity to get feedback prior to the final grade. You'll receive 10% of the points for this assignment by turning in a complete first draft in advance. I'll then give you feedback on your first draft and you'll turn in the final version; your score on the final version will comprise the other 90%.

You should expect the write-up to be at least ~2.5-3 pages long, single-spaced, not counting references. It should include ***all*** the following sections (please read the directions carefully):

Introduction and Background – at least two full paragraphs 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, and why you think it's an interesting question. 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).

Proposed method – at least one paragraph describing what measurement method you have decided to use and why it's appropriate for your question.

Design – one table or graphic illustrating the design (that is, the conditions that will be examined), and at least one paragraph describing the design in words.

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