

Format tips for the squib

Organization. Make sure to organize your squib into sections (and subsections) in a way that is easy to understand. In addition, give an introduction at the beginning of the paper, and have a conclusion at the end. The introduction can include a summary of what the phenomenon is that you observed. You can also comment briefly on the similarities and differences of that phenomenon in English and your first language, if that is different from English. Also, provide a roadmap for the squib. In the main body of the paper, describe your findings, illustrating with examples, where appropriate. You may also want to devote a more in-depth comparison of the language you looked at and English, for example – especially if the phenomenon that you are discussing was addressed in class. In the conclusion, summarize the main points of the squib. You may also want to point out areas where you feel that further research is needed.

Transcription system. The transcription system you use depends what you've decided to discuss in your paper. If you are talking about phonology, you will want to use IPA transcription. If you are talking about syntax, you can probably simply use the writing system of the language if it uses the Latin alphabet (but make sure you mention if there are any important discrepancies between writing and pronunciation); or if it uses a non-Latin alphabet you may choose to transcribe it using IPA or simple Latin letters. As an example, if your language of choice were Russian (not an allowed language for this project), the sentence 'I love you' would be written in Cyrillic as in (3a); since most people cannot read Cyrillic script you should not use it in your paper. You may want to transcribe the sentence using IPA as in (3b) (especially if discussing phonology/phonetics), but if your analysis does not depend on translation you may want to transliterate it into Latin characters, as in (3c):

- (1)a. Я тебя люблю. [Russian]
b. ja tʰɪbʲja lʲubʲlʲu
c. ya tyebya lyublyu

The key point here is to always make sure you give *enough* information. If you're talking about morphology and different allomorphs are used in different phonological environments, you need to make sure this is clear in your transcription – and it may *not* be clear in the actual writing system of the language. When in doubt, use IPA.

Examples. When discussing data from a language other than English, give a translation of the sentence. In addition, provide glosses for the individual words in the sentence – the gloss can differ substantially from the translation. For example:

- (2) ya tyebya lyublyu
I-nominative you-accusative love-1sg
'I love you' [Russian]
(3) I adore you

Other format issues. For much more detailed tips on formatting, you can check out the MITWPL style sheet. You can reach the stylesheet from <http://web.mit.edu/mitwpl/styleinfo.html>. You are not required to follow those formatting guidelines, but can use them for tips.

References. Please format references as shown below.

Chomsky, N. (2001). Derivation by phase. in M. Kenstowicz (ed). *Ken Hale: A Life in Language*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press
[chapter in an edited book]

Flynn, S. (2003). Historical linguistics. 24.900 lecture notes
[lecture notes]

Fromkin, V., R. Rodman, and N. Hyams. (2002). *Introduction to Language*. Boston: Thomson Heinle
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Kennelly, S. D. (2003). The implications of quantification for the role of focus in discourse structure. *Lingua* 113:11
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MITWPL style sheet. <http://web.mit.edu/mitwpl/styleinfo.html>

Quirk, R., S. Greenbaum, G. Leech, and J. Svartvik. (1985). *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. London and New York: Longman
[book]

Weiner, E. S., J. A. Simpson, J. Simpson. (1989). *Oxford English Dictionary*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
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