

Experimental Design for Linguists

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Abstracts

Performing controlled experiments to back up intuitions is gradually becoming the norm in syntactic research, especially as the means for collecting experimental data becomes easier and easier. In this tutorial, I will provide an intro to issues and best practices in designing experiments for addressing problems in linguistics, particularly with respect to experimental syntax. The focus of the tutorial will be on general principles of experimental design, and specific issues that arise in experimental investigations of language (e.g. planning/controlling for likely confounds, counterbalancing, etc.). Time allowing, a brief demo of collecting judgments via Amazon's Mechanical Turk will also be provided.