**Sign-up sheet Psycholinguistics Presentations**

**ORDER and DATES are APPROXIMATE and MAY be CHANGED!!**

**Guidelines**: around **10-minute** presentations (**absolute max**: 15 minutes).   
**Always include a discussion of the relevance of your topic   
to our understanding of (human) language**

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| Find out about the current status of **Shanghainese**. Is it a vital, first language? Would you say it is an “endangered language”? | **Ch. 1** |  |
| Why does language **change**? Give illustrations / reasons. | **Ch. 1** |  |
| Investigate one or more “**spelling alphabets**” and report on their choice of words. | **Ch. 1** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on **Chinese Sign Language**. | **Ch. 1** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on different kinds of **spelling errors** (in any language). Relate this to spelling education. | **Ch. 1** |  |
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| What is **Universal Grammar**? Give examples from any part of linguistics, and discuss. | **Ch. 2** |  |
| Find out about **sound symbolism** and give examples. | **Ch. 2** |  |
| Find out about the **phonology**, **morphology** (or **syntax**) of a Chinese minority language and present the interesting aspects. | **Ch. 2** |  |
| Define **instinct** and argue for or against a language instinct. | **Ch. 2** |  |
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| Describe one or more cases of **brain damage** which led to language disorder. What do(es) your case(s) tell us about the way language functions in the brain? | **Ch. 3** |  |
| Describe one system of **animal communication** in detail (e.g. dolphins, dogs, lobsters, penguins, elephants or meerkats). What are differences / similarities compared to human language? | **Ch. 3** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on **birdsong**. Why is it relevant to human language? | **Ch. 3** |  |
| Look up what the **FOXP2** gene is and prepare a presentation on genetic aspects of language. Also include the **miR-941** gene. | **Ch. 3** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on reading/writing systems for the **blind**, e.g. braille. Are there different systems in different countries? | **Ch. 3** |  |
| Prepare a presentation on **speed reading**. Investigate existing programs/apps, psycholinguistic implications and give your own opinion. | **Ch. 3** |  |
| What is **memory**? Apply this to knowledge of language. | **Ch. 3** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on **amnesia**, with particular attention for different types and different causes. | **Ch. 3** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on **Broca’s aphasia**, on the basis of a case of a real speaker. | **Ch. 3** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on **Wernicke’s aphasia**, on the basis of a case of a real speaker. | **Ch. 3** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on **dyslexia**, paying special attention to methods of treatment. Focus on one or two especially interesting points.  Note: group presentation is also possible for this topic, e.g. four people for an hour’s presentation | **Ch. 3** |  |
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| Tell the story of one “**wild (feral) child**”. Give examples of their language use and discuss the implications. | **Ch. 4** |  |
| Children are sensitive to language even **before birth**. Find examples of recent research and give a short presentation on this topic. | **Ch. 4** |  |
| Do an Internet search for “**idiot savant**” and tell us the story of **Christopher**. | **Ch. 4** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on the kinds of “mistakes” children make in their **first language acquisition of Chinese**. **Explain** the examples. | **Ch. 4** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on the **acquisition of tone** in Chinese (L1 or L2). Which tone comes first? Can you explain tonal mistakes? | **Ch. 4** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on **Chinese child-directed speech**. If possible, compare with child-directed speech in other languages and give video or audio examples | **Ch. 4** |  |
| Find original examples of children using particular words with a different **meaning** from adults. Try to find an explanation for these cases. | **Ch. 4** |  |
| Find examples of **syntactic mistakes** children make in their early sentences in Chinese or English. Try to find an explanation. | **Ch. 4** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on different learning strategies for **second-language acquisition**, with special attention for the learning strategies you have been exposed to. Which one(s) work(ed) best for you? Do you have any advice for SLA methods? | **Ch. 4** |  |
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| Collect some **tongue twisters** from different languages and discuss why they are difficult for speakers. | **Ch. 5** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on **puns** in Chinese. Compare these to what you know (or can found out) about puns in English. | **Ch. 5** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on **stuttering**. What are possible causes and therapies? | **Ch. 5** |  |
| Collect a number of **speech errors** by yourself or others (e.g. slips of the tongue). Discuss and try to explain them. | **Ch. 5** |  |
| Try to find and/or induce “**tip-of-the-tongue**” phenomena with native speakers. Describe the situation and their reaction as accurately as possible. | **Ch. 5** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on **code switching**. Give real-life examples. | **Ch. 5** |  |
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| Prepare a short presentation on **rhyming**. Does what rhyme in one language also rhyme in other languages? Why do songs, poems often rhyme? | **Ch. 6** |  |
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| What are **garden path sentences**? Give examples from at least two languages, explain them, and test the sentences with native speakers. Describe their reaction. | **Ch. 7** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on the difference(s) between **ambiguity and vagueness**. | **Ch. 7** |  |
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| Look up what “**map tasks**” are and play out the task with several people. Comment on different strategies and report your findings regarding difficulties in communication. | **Ch. 8** |  |
| Look up Look up what the “**Turing Test**” is and prepare a short presentation on this topic. Offer a discussion and give examples. | **Ch. 8** |  |
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| Prepare a short presentation on “**artificial languages**”, e.g. Esperanto (or any other one). What do you think of their aims? | **general** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on **Lojban**. | **general** |  |
| What is **consciousness**? Is there a role for language? | **general** |  |
| Discuss the statement: “Chinese speakers **think** in a different way from English speakers because their languages differ.” | **general** |  |
| Do you think a term like “chairman” in English is **inappropriate**? Do similar issues arise for Chinese or for any other language that you are familiar with? | **general** |  |
| Describe differences in language use by **men and women**. Discuss the reasons. Compare different languages. | **general** |  |
| Do some research about the **ethics** of working with human subjects. To what extent does this apply to psycholinguistic experiments? | **general** |  |
| Prepare a short presentation on **translatability**. Interview at least one professional translator (or interpreter) and comment on methods, problems, tips and tricks. | **general** |  |
| Do you think **musical skills** are related to language skills? Discuss. | **general** |  |
| Tell us about **Game Theory** and discuss the relevance for linguistics / psycholinguistics. | **general** |  |
| Small research project: Is there any difference in grammatical structure between **written** and **unwritten** languages? | **general** |  |