

## Possible topics for final paper/presentation

The following is a non-exhaustive list of the kinds of topics you may want to research for your final paper and presentation. In general, the topics in this list are too general, and you will need to focus them more after some research. Your topic should relate some facet of language to some general cognitive ability, broadly speaking. Ideally, your chosen topic will be of some personal interest to you.

Your paper will consist of two parts. In the first part, you will review the state of the evidence in your topic. In the second part, you will go beyond that and either a) propose a mechanism to explain the existing data and/or propose an experiment(s) that will advance the question at hand or b) apply the evidence to inform a policy change or design an intervention.

### Cross-cultural studies of different domains:

- Space (spatial orientation, navigation, spatial relations, etc)
- Color
- Number
- Theory of mind
- Categorization
- Language acquisition
- Pragmatics (honorifics, saving face, jokes, etc)

### Bilingualism and

- Brain development
- Cognitive flexibility
- Theory of mind
- Language acquisition
- Memory
- Interference
- Intelligence

### Special cases

- Word learning in dogs, chimps, babies
- Symbol use in babies, chimps, pigeons
- Theory of mind in babies, chimps, dogs, Autism, SLI, William's syndrome, deaf.
- Counterfactual reasoning in babies, Parkinson's, Autism, etc
- Language acquisition in deaf, William's syndrome, autism, etc.
- Executive control (different populations)
- Emotional development (different populations)

### Previous Topics

verbal abuse as fallacy; cross-cultural pragmatics – requests; symbol use in chimps and human children; eating disorders and inner speech; emotional development and inner speech; autism and language development; cross-cultural influences on spatial orientation and navigation; use of non-verbal communication cues in law enforcement; sexist language and sexism in culture; object permanence and prepositions; hyperlexia and social development; language and thought in rats; schizophrenia, inner speech and communication; bilingualism and memory capacity; bilingualism, aging and attrition; bilingualism and teachers' attitudes; influence of word order on frame of reference usage; cross-cultural aesthetics and language; polyglots and cognitive flexibility; language in advertisement; word-play across cultures; communication systems in non-human animals: bees, dogs, and chimps; how to best teach a second language to college students; development of theory of mind across languages; theory of mind in the deaf; the effect of verbs in the perception of events; bilingualism and cultural identity...