

Preparing your problem set analysis and write-up  
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You have been organizing the data using the tips we talked about last week. You are starting to see patterns and recognize words and morphemes. Now what do you do?

Please remember first of all that **every problem set is different** and each one will have specific instructions as to what you need to answer and how to answer it. You will be graded entirely on the **specific** instructions for that problem set.

Having said that, here is some guidance on how to proceed that should help you no matter the assignment!

1. Type out and organize your morphemes

Notice that this is part of the grade for every single assignment. If you do this step, you automatically get 4 points on the assignment.

Please organize your morpheme list in a way that makes sense. For example, you could put all of the affixes together, and all of the root/stem morphemes together. You could put all of the content words ('dog,' 'peace,' 'galaxy') together, and all of the function words (ART, COP, 'in') together.

2. Gloss all of your data

Every example in your write-up needs to be both *parsed* and *glossed*. One suggestion I would like to make is this:

- Copy all of the problem set data into a new Word document.
- Parse and gloss every example. Even though you won't use every example, this is a simple step to take to make sure you have understood everything and haven't missed any important morphemes.
- When you are doing your write-up, you can now just copy and paste the example you want into your writing, because you already parsed and glossed it!

Remember to align your glosses.

Remember to use standard Leipzig glosses.

3. Answer the questions and use examples.

Now, write up your answers to the questions posed by the assignment. You will use examples from the data set to back up your arguments. All examples in the write-up should be numbered – e.g. the first example you use will be (1), the second (2), etc. You should also make a note of what number that example was in the data set, and you should put this number at the end of your example. Like this:

“Russian property constructions in the present tense consist of a noun phrase and an adjective describing the noun, without a copula linking the two, as in (1):

- (1) *Volya sonnyi*  
Volya sleepy.NOM.M  
“Volya is sleepy.” (Ex 8)”

Always be very explicit about why you are using an example and what you want the reader to see in the example. Don't just say “Russian property constructions look like this (1)”.

#### 4. Pay attention to substance and style

You can propose hypotheses, but don't just describe your thought process. For example, this is not an appropriate assignment write up:

*“At first I didn't know why there looked like a verb in the past tense but there wasn't anything at all marking the present tense, and I wondered if maybe my TA had made a typo in the data set, but then I figured out that maybe...”*

Please don't do this!!

Instead, describe your best conclusions, including any outstanding questions. Like this:  
*“The main differences between present and past-tense nonverbal predicates in Russian are a) there is no copula in the present tense, but there is one in the past, b) in many past tense constructions, the predicate is marked with the instrumental case. We have one example where this is not true, Ex. 11, and it might be the case that this indicates a different grammatical coding for temporary and permanent properties. In order to confirm this hypothesis, I would want more examples of both temporary and permanent property constructions in past tense.”*

You should be clear, professional, and concise. Most problem sets can be successfully written up in 2-4 pages. You can use more, but this often means you could tighten up your argumentation. The document can be single-spaced, but remember to put a line above and below each example, to set it apart from the prose clearly.

#### General concluding tips:

- Be clear.
- Format your examples appropriately.
- Gloss appropriately.
- Explain every example you use.
- Answer the questions.