

METHODOLOGICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE THESIS PREPARATION

MASTER PROGRAMME

“Linguistic theory and language description”

1. Papers are submitted electronically.
2. Papers must be submitted in English. Submitting a paper in another language must be approved by the academic supervisor.
3. The recommended size of the paper is established as follows:
 - for term papers, including both conventional research papers or experimental studies: 30,000 characters including spaces (which is roughly 15 1,5 spaced pages in Times New Roman 12), excluding the title page, the list of references and appendices;
 - for MA graduation papers, including both conventional research papers or experimental studies: 100,000 characters including spaces (which is roughly 50 1,5 spaced pages in Times New Roman 12), excluding the title page, the list of references and appendices;
 - shorter papers may be accepted on a special permission from the academic supervisor and are subject to special scrutiny by the committee.
4. All papers must include a title page, table of contents and a list of references. Further formatting requirements depend on the type of research paper.
5. Conventional research papers must include an introduction including problem setting and a survey of literature contextualizing the study; conclusion summarizing the results; and sections describing the research itself.
6. For experimental studies, the student should follow the structure of submissions to experimental journals, such as Journal of Memory and Language, Brain and Language, Aphasiology and similar. Further specifications must be discussed with the research supervisor.
7. A research paper has to provide results of the author’s research and cannot be merely a compilation or review of other studies.
8. The following must be indicated explicitly:
 - **topic** (case systems of Tungusic; phonetic variation in Burushaski etc.);
 - **aim** (separation of typologically common and rare features of verbal inflection in Aceh; verification of the hypothesis of relevance of speaker’s gender for the use of sibilants etc);
 - **research methods** (statistical analysis, typological sampling, eye-tracking etc.);
 - **amount of empirical data**, the way these were obtained (for instance, elicitation from ten consultants, analysis of a corpus of 100,000 tokens) and the sources;
 - **results**.

A survey of the state of affairs in the research domain aims at showing the novelty of the study. This may include:

- novelty of the topic (Aceh is a pre-contact language of Amazonia, and or its case system has never been looked at before),

- novelty of the aim (Aceh case systems have never been compared with case systems in other languages in the area),
- novelty of methods (Aceh has never been investigated via elicitation),
- novelty of the data (no data on case systems if Aceh was available prior to the study),
- novelty of results (no one has previously shown that the inflection system of Aceh is a kind of case system)

or a combination of the above.

Formatting may be regulated by additional rules adopted by the program. All deviation is only allowed upon consent from both the research supervisor and the academic supervisor of the program. For experimental studies, the formatting in the main sections of the paper, references in the running text and in the list of references, tables and figures must follow the APA stylesheet (American Psychological Association), 6th Edition. The same applies to the representation of results obtained by statistical methods. Upon consent from the research supervisor the stylesheet may be changed - but be adhered to in a consistent way, including appendices.

If the paper uses a **code**, **raw data** and a **dataset** it is recommended that these are made available at GitHub, BitBucket or a similar open third party repository environment. The link to the relevant repository must be included in the text of the paper. In case there are copyright obligations or similar circumstances that make it impossible to the data or the code into public domain, they have to come as electronic attachments to the text of the paper.