How to choose a topic

1. Define a domain by language, social group, situation.
2. Choose a phenomenon that occurs naturally in that domain (not polite terms of address in academic papers).
3. Naturally occurring data is of course of the greatest interest for this course.
4. Having said that, data collection should, ideally, be over when you start this paper. Pre-existing corpora are great, but they need to be appropriate for your topic (see previous point). If you don’t have appropriate pre-existing data, begin collecting data at once, and begin sampling collected data at once, to guarantee that you are indeed getting instances of the phenomenon you want to write about.
5. Everyone should get their chosen topic approved by me by the paper approval deadline given on the course outline about their topic.