Primary vs. secondary sources report—directions
for Ling 200A term paper
due Nov. 5

This progress report should address these points:

1. What’s the language, what’s the phenomenon (e.g., vowel-height harmony), what type of phenomenon is it (e.g., counterfeeding on target).
2. Give full bibliographic information for the secondary (analytical) source.
3. What is the secondary source’s take on the case? For example, is it straightforwardly analyzed in SPE? analyzed in SPE and argued to be problematic for OT? analyzed by modifying or extending OT?
4. Give full bibliographic information for the primary (original data) source.
5. As far as you can tell, what is the data-collection method in the primary source? For example, is it a reference grammar based on extensive fieldwork? a dictionary compiled by a team of native speakers? a small dataset drawn from the native-speaker author’s intuitions?
6. Is the primary source strictly descriptive, or does it also get into analysis? If there’s analysis, how much is it like the secondary source’s analysis?
7. From what you’ve determined so far, are the data in the two sources consistent?

- Modify appropriately if your analytical source turned out to be also a primary data source.
- 1-2 pages should suffice.