

# Cultivating New Student Editors in the Linguistics Classroom

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**#lingwiki**

- A linguist from the U.S. creating and editing articles on linguists, poets, and genre fiction.



This user is a member of  
**WikiProject Linguistics.**

(Graphic: *Tower of Babel* by Lucas van Valckenborch: Public Domain)



This user is a member of **WikiProject Women.**

(Graphic: *Three Friends* by William Johnson: Public Domain)

# Overlapping issues

- **Issue 1—Convincing Academe**
- **Issue 2—Dual Strands of Learning**
- **Issue 3—Discipline Content Gaps**
- **Issue 4—Diversity of Editors**

# Issue 1—Convincing Academe

## Academic Value of Wiki Editing

- Getting to the point of deciding what the most valued sources on entry level topics are, and who the key names in the field are
- Thinking hard about primary vs. secondary sources
- Leaving an evidence trail of citations
- Explaining your edits of someone else's work
- Thinking about hierarchy and taxonomy within a discipline—which pages should really be sub paragraphs of existing pages?

**i.e., Find knowledge, document sources, share knowledge!**

# Issue 2—Dual Strands of Learning

## Edithathons vs. Page Editing Assignments

Students in the classroom are often learning both discipline content and editing skills at the same time.

# Undergrad: Overview of Class Points

## Contributions from the Textbook and Lecture (Total: 105 points)

Class Attendance Total	10
Gricean implicature exercise	15
Reference and deixis exercise	20
Direct and indirect speech act exercise	20
Choice of reflection exercise (UTASCILT, Wiki, ACES)	10
Final exam	30

## Contributions from Wikipedia Editing (Total: 95 points)

Get started on Wikipedia	5
Evaluate Wikipedia	10
Add to an article	10
Draft your article	20
Respond to your peer review	10
Group in-class presentation	10
Final article	30

<b>Grand Total for all Class Work:</b>	<b>(200 points)</b>
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# Grad: Overview of Class Points

- 5% **HW1** Collecting and Reflecting  
Collect 10 examples of your chosen DM and give a preliminary suggestion of its function(s)
- 10% **HW2** Turn-taking  
Sketch examining the role of turn-taking with a particular DM
- 15% **HW3** Literature  
History of previous research on your chosen DM (and/or related forms or functions)
- 15% **HW4** Gap  
Find a gap not addressed in existing theories that could apply to your particular DM
- 10% **HW5** **Outreach**  
Discuss the presence or lack of your DM's uses and related concepts in Wikipedia (**i.e. what info for the public should be added or edited?**)
- 30% **Final paper** explaining an aspect of your chosen DM
- 5% **Class presentation** on your chosen DM



# Range of Classes

- LING 4345 Semantics:

8	26	1 <sup>i</sup>	3.54K
Articles Edited	Total Edits	Student Editors	Words Added

- Ling 4347 Pragmatics:

45	713	29 <sup>i</sup>	9.61K
Articles Edited	Total Edits	Student Editors	Words Added

- Ling 5372: Discourse Markers:

0	15	11 <sup>i</sup>	0
Articles Edited	Total Edits	Student Editors	Words Added

## Issue 3—Discipline Content Gaps

Linguistics as a discipline is unevenly represented in Wikipedia (Halavais 2008), with topics such as under documented and minority languages and female linguists having particularly low coverage, as we see for women's biographical pages in general (Reagle & Rhue 2011, Moravec 2018).

## Discussion: What's a content gap?

In Class

Now that you're thinking about what makes a "good" Wikipedia article, consider some additional questions.

- Wikipedians often talk about "content gaps." What do you think a content gap is, and what are some possible ways to identify them?
- What are some reasons a content gap might arise? What are some ways to remedy them?
- Does it matter who writes Wikipedia?
- What does it mean to be "unbiased" on Wikipedia? How is that different, or similar, to your own definition of "bias"?

## Add to an article

Assignment - Due next week

Familiarize yourself with editing Wikipedia by adding a citation to an article.

- Choose an article from the list of "available articles" on the **Articles** tab to make a small change to in order to warm up your editing powers.
- Add 1-2 sentences to the article, and cite that statement to a reliable source, as you learned in the online training.

## Training

Sources and Citations

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Start →

# The Making of a Wiki Page

Most pages in Wikipedia have been added to by lots and lots of editors, each adding a correction, a fact, a date, a reference, a link to a related page, etc. You can see the history of every page on the View History tab...

**Doritos**

**Corpus of Contemporary American English**

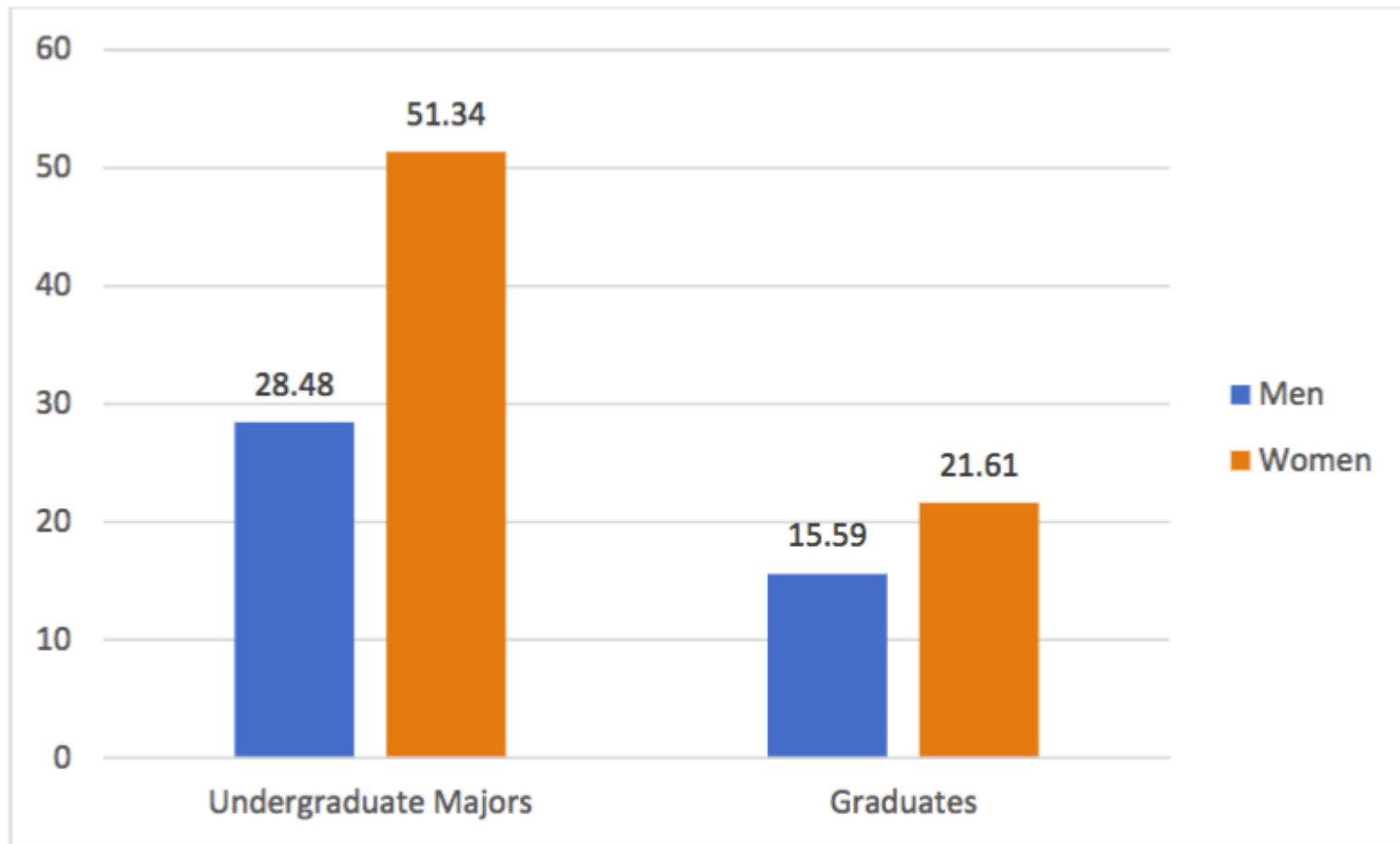
**Tenseless language**

## Issue 4—Diversity of Editors

Since Wikipedia editors are still more often male (Wagner et al. 2016, Cabrera et al 2018), while students in linguistics are more often female (LSA Annual Report 2018), then bringing familiarity with Wikipedia editing skills to this student body provides a way to train and increase the number of female editors.

**Figure 18A: Average Number of Students by Program and Divided by Gender**

Source: LSA Directory of Departments and Programs, 2017



*(The State of Linguistics in Higher Education Annual Report 2017, p. 27)*

# Get it Out There!

What do you hear?  
**YANNY** or **LAUREL**

#whyIstayed  
#NastyWoman  
#BlackLivesMatter  
#MeToo



Photo of Speech Language Pathologist  
by Dr. P. K. Abdul Kader (CC BY-SA 4.0)

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