Introducing Rbrul, a statistics tool for linguists

Two case studies

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What is Rbrul?

Rbrul is an open-source software package developed by D. E. Johnson that is especially designed for the facilitation of the analysis of linguistic data. It is the successor to Goldvarb (Goldvarb 2007) and is a compilation of it commands. It provides a bridge in that it allows researchers with limited knowledge of statistics to run complex models without having to learn all the syntax of it or memorize commands. Instead, Rbrul takes an easy step-by-step approach to achieve meaningful quantitative results.

How does it work?

Rbrul provides basic functions for statistical analyses and works on a question-answer basis. Rbrul asks a simple question, the user answers with a few keystrokes, e.g. by entering numbers or pressing Enter. For example, entering “1” in the Main Menu (visualised on the right) will initiate the process of loading in a new data file (or saving an already loaded one), or entering “0” will open up the Cross-tab Menu.

Case study 1: GOOSE Vowel Frequencies

Case study 2: Obligation and necessity

References and Manuals

References and Manuals

Tobias Leonhardt, University of Bern, 2012. Bilingual Workshop in Variationist Sociolinguistics

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