This presentation briefly explains the results of a linguistic study which analyzed the phenomenon of consonant cluster reduction (CCR), as well as the factor of lexical aspect, and their effects on the presence of unmarked verb tense in oral narratives. The inspiration for looking at these two variables in particular comes from historic literature in the sub-fields of linguistics concerned with sociolinguistics and second language acquisition. The data used for this project comes from sociolinguistic interviews conducted by Amy Reynolds with Karen Refugees living in North Carolina at the time of their interview. My analysis found that both CCR and similar phonetic factors, and lexical aspect, have a significant effect on unmarked tense. I was able to complete this project as a recipient of the Summer Award for Research-Intensive Courses given by the Office of Undergraduate Research and the Summer School at UNC-Chapel Hill.