



**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON
LINGUISTICS STUDENT ORGANIZATION
INVITES YOU TO**

**THE 18TH
WORKSHOP
IN GENERAL
LINGUISTICS
(WIGL 18)**

**FRIDAY APRIL 12TH, 2024 &
SATURDAY APRIL 13TH, 2024**



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Contact request@asm.wisc.edu
for accommodation information.

18th Workshop in General Linguistics (WiGL 18)

University of Wisconsin-Madison

April 12th-13th, 2024

Friday, April 12, 2024

Online Workshops	
10:20-11:20	Getting Started with LaTeX (online only) Daniel Quigley (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
12:00-1:00	ChatGPT as a Research Assistant for Experimental Linguistics (online only) Led by Hyun Bae (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Madison

Rest of Day's Events in 4235 Nancy Nicholas Hall

2:30 Registration

2:45 Opening remarks: Rajiv Rao (he/him/his), Director, Language Sciences, UW-Madison

3:00 Keynote: Julia Goetze (she/her/hers), "Going with the flow: Aligning Professional Development with Disciplinary Currents in (Applied) Linguistics"

Moderators: Vatcharit (Pond) Chantajinda (he/him/his) & Thomas Harb (he/him/his)

4:00 Break

Session 1 - 4:30pm - 6:00pm Moderators: Martiniano Etchart (he/him/his) & Gwen Tuffnell (she/her/hers)	
4:30	Best Abstract Award Winner: Solving a 5,000-Year-Old Problem: New Tools for Teaching Cuneiform Daniel Stelzer (they/them), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
5:00	Relative measures and the interpretation of proportional alternatives Andrew Kato (he/him/his), University of California Santa Cruz
5:30	Relational Valuation and the Interpretation of the Possessive Head (virtual) Liumao Zhong (he/him/his), Stony Brook University & Yuhuan Wang (she/her/hers), SIT
6:00	(Dis-)possessive Unaccusatives in Mandarin Chinese (virtual poster) Liumao Zhong (he/him/his) Stony Brook University

6:15 pm Social/Pizza Dinner

Saturday, April 13th, 2024 - All Events in 6191 Helen C. White Hall

8:30 Light breakfast of pastries, juice, and coffee available

9:00 Keynote: Robert Hawkins (he/him/his), "Approaching language through cognitive science"
(virtual)

Moderator: Yolanda Pushetonequa (she/her/hers)

10:00 Break

Session 2 - 10:30am - 12:00pm Moderator: Jack Crabb (he/him/his)	
10:30	Linguistics in Healthcare: Complaints and Complaint Responses in Patient-Physician E-dialogues on the Chinese Healthcare Platform " <i>Hao-Daifu</i> (Good Doctors)" Shuyang Ye (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Madison
11:00	A Morphology-Sensitive Agree Model to Account for Agreement Asymmetries in Arabic (virtual) Aya Halabi (she/her/hers), University of Michigan
11:30	Arabic Heritage Speakers' Perception of Arabic Emphatic-Plain Contrasts Maaly Al Omary (she/her/hers) & Jae Yung Song, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

12:00 Lunch

Session 3 - 1:00pm - 2:30pm Moderators: Lucas Annear (he/him/his) & Joseph Moran (he/him/his)	
1:00	Undoing the present and past: processing of counterfactual wishes and conditionals in 3-and-4-year-olds Anvita Guda (she/her/hers), New York University & Maxime Tulling (she/her/hers), University of Montreal & Ailís Cournane (she/her/hers), New York University
1:30	Interpretable Dialect Classification: A Statistical Modeling Pipeline for Identifying Phonetic Dialect Features Henry Nomeland (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Madison
2:00	Best Abstract Award Winner: Effects of Speech Motor Learning on L2 Production and Perception Categories Sadie Collar (she/her/hers) & Caroline Niziolek (she/her/hers) & Yuyu Zeng (she/her/hers), University of Wisconsin-Madison

2:30 Break

3:00 posters

- Cacti or cactuses? Exploring Rule Generalization in English Plurals
 - B Cadigan, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- How Strong Was the (Linguistic) Prescription? Influences of Inherited Accents on Transatlantic Speech
 - Andrew Dirkse (he/him/his) & Isabelle Parker (she/her/hers), University of Wisconsin-Madison
- On Korean 'Why': Its Syntactic and Semantic Properties
 - Yunhui Kim (she/her/hers), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Generational Differences in the Use of Rhotacization in Beijing Dialect
 - Zimo Kong (she/her/hers), University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Be Reasonable! Relating Logical Models and Vector Spaces for NLP Interpretability
 - Daniel Quigley (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Grammaticality judgments of spoken Tibetan
 - Dirk Schmidt (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Madison

4:00 Break

Session 4 - 4:30pm - 5:30pm	
Moderator: Charlotte Vanhecke (she/her/hers)	
4:30	<i>"Bist du ein Smombie? Heb je tinderellasyndroom?"</i> : English Influence in Youth Word of the Year Lists for Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands Finn Shepherd (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Madison
5:00	A Corpus-assisted Analysis of Dissertation Acknowledgements Written in Chinese: A Diachronic Approach Yaqian Zhao (she/her/hers), University of Wisconsin-Madison

5:30 Closing

6:00-8:00 Reception Dinner

WiGL 18 Keynote Presentations

- Julia Goetze (she/her/hers), Assistant Professor of German and SLA, UW-Madison

Going with the flow: Aligning Professional Development with Disciplinary Currents in (Applied) Linguistics

Looking at my CV, you may ask yourself: How did she go from a B.A. in German Literature to being awarded a Ph.D. in German to a faculty position in Second Language Acquisition? How is teacher psychology the missing link in this equation? And what does it all have to do with linguistics?

In this keynote, I use my own academic journey to illustrate how a host of budding interests in graduate school can develop into a multifaceted interdisciplinary research program. To begin, I provide a short overview of my current research to position myself and my work within applied linguistics more generally, and second language acquisition more specifically. Next, I will pause, turn back, and invite the audience to retrace my journey of academic maturation that has led me to where I am today. To structure my presentation, I will present three key projects in my career and highlight how these projects have helped define my researcher identity and how they have been shaped by key developments and disciplinary currents in the field of applied linguistics and the domain of second language acquisition, such as the affective and positive turns (Pavlenko, 2013; MacIntyre et al., 2016).

By explicitly highlighting these reciprocal effects between disciplinary and individual development, I aim to engage the audience in a dialogue about the role and potential of interdisciplinarity in the field of (applied) linguistics and the importance of connecting individual research interests to a broader (inter)disciplinary landscape. I hope that such a conversation will be insightful and beneficial for a novice researcher and (under)graduate student audience who recently embarked or will soon embark on their own journey of academic maturation with their own key moments on the horizon.

- Robert Hawkins (he/him/his), Assistant Professor of Psychology, UW-Madison

Approaching language through cognitive science

I'll describe my 'research journey' into linguistics and some of the overarching themes that have emerged in my work. As an undergraduate, I was fascinated with mathematics and cognitive science, and I encountered the idea that we can instantiate hypotheses about human behavior as computational models. Then, as I began graduate school in Psychology, I first encountered the deep puzzles of semantics & pragmatics: roughly, what speakers mean when they say things. Coming at these puzzles from cognitive science, my goal was then to follow Grice's advice to "see talking as a special case or variety of purposive, indeed rational, behavior," and to unify our models of pragmatics with our models of other non-linguistic social behaviors. Moving forward, I plan to continue studying how people communicate and 'make meaning' through social interaction.

Workshop Summaries

- **Hyun Bae (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Madison**

ChatGPT as a Research Assistant for Experimental Linguistics **(online only)**

This workshop explores the pivotal role of ChatGPT in experimental linguistics, highlighting its application in streamlining research processes across multiple phases, such as literature review, experimental design, hypothesis testing, participant recruitment, and data analysis. Participants will learn how to identify the most suitable versions of ChatGPT for their experiments and develop targeted prompts to facilitate their research endeavors efficiently. Lastly, I will introduce a website where linguists can discover platforms potentially beneficial for their linguistic research, offering further resources and support for their work.

- **Daniel Quigley (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

Getting Started with LaTeX **(online only)**

LaTeX is a typesetting system for creating typographically consistent and sophisticated document types. This workshop introduces the audience to the basics of LaTeX. It is not meant to convince you to use LaTeX; rather, it is an introduction to LaTeX in case you might be curious about what it's like, and to be a starting point for its continued use. Topics include: what is LaTeX; how LaTeX is different from other document-writing software; document types; bibliography management; potential bugs and errors. All example documents, source code, and presentation slides will be available for use and reference after the workshop has concluded.

Presentation Summaries (in alphabetical order by author's last name)

- **Maaly Al Omary (she/her/hers), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

Arabic Heritage Speakers' Perception of Arabic Emphatic-Plain Contrasts

Studying Arabic Heritage Speakers' Perception of Arabic Emphasis: This presentation examines Arabic heritage speakers' and L2 learners' perceptions of Arabic emphatic-plain contrasts. It examines the influence of vowel context and consonant position on emphatic-plain contrasts perception. Findings suggest heritage speakers are more accurate in contrast perception, benefiting from their vernacular input. Their reliance on vowel and consonant positions varies compared to L2 learners. Findings underscore the significance of early language exposure in emphasis perception. This study contributes to understanding Arabic acquisition as a Heritage Language.

- **B Cadigan, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Cacti or cactuses? Exploring Rule Generalization in English Plurals

English words come from a variety of sources and therefore have a variety of rules dictating how they should form plurals. Words ending in -us have different styles of pluralization based on what language they originated from, but the lines are starting to blur as speakers generalize rules from one group to the other. This study seeks to explore which form of -us plural is more prevalent among younger and older speakers to model change in forms over time.

- Sadie Collar (she/her/hers) & Caroline Niziolek (she/her/hers) & Yuyu Zeng (she/her/hers), University of Wisconsin-Madison

Effects of Speech Motor Learning on L2 Production and Perception Categories

This study uses an auditory feedback perturbation procedure to determine whether non-native English speakers demonstrate adaptation, and how their behavior when exposed to altered auditory feedback affects their perceptual vowel categorization. We know that native English speakers demonstrate adaptation in the opposite direction opposing perturbation, and this adaptation has also been shown to affect their perceptual vowel boundaries. Since native Spanish speakers have a limited ability to distinguish between the vowels /i/ (“sheep”) and /ɪ/ (“ship”) in English, they are expected to adapt differently, relying more heavily on durational cues rather than formants. This study explores whether L1 Spanish-speakers after adaptation to auditory feedback perturbation will increase their reliance on formants for perceptual categorization. Preliminary results from the native English-speaking group shows a reliance on formants for categorization of vowels before and after motor learning. As data is collected from the L1 Spanish-speaking group, it will provide insight into the effects of altered auditory feedback on the production and perception of non-native speakers.

- Andrew Dirkse (he/him/his) & Isobelle Parker (she/her/hers), University of Wisconsin-Madison

How Strong Was the (Linguistic) Prescription? Influences of Inherited Accents on Transatlantic Speech

How did the Transatlantic accent, an artificial blend of features from American and British dialects, persist for most of the twentieth century? Using archival videos of speakers considered Transatlantic, we infer two facts that can help answer the question. First, speakers not from New England (where a non-rhotic accent has dominated) are more likely to exhibit rhoticity, even in “Transatlantic” speech. Second, “Transatlantic” speakers do not consistently follow the codified rules of the accent. We conclude that the apparent persistence of the Transatlantic accent is better accounted for by the fact that its speakers did not always follow the rules.

-Anvita Guda (she/her/hers), New York University & Maxime Tulling (she/her/hers), University of Montreal & Ailís Cournane (she/her/hers), New York University

Undoing the present and past: processing of counterfactual wishes and conditionals in 3-and-4-year-olds

Counterfactual statements, like “I wish dinosaurs were alive” or “If dinosaurs were alive, I’d be happy”, involve abstract verbiage and propose situations beyond the here and now. When considering their misleading fake past-tense morphology, counterfactual statements require cognitively and linguistically complex comprehension, which many argue only comes about at 4-to-5-years-old. We’re particularly curious about whether young children display an earlier adult-like understanding of linguistically less complex counterfactual constructions over more complex ones, and to answer this question, we created a picture-selection task that considers counterfactual conditionals and wishes, while varying the temporal orientation of the utterance (present versus past).

- Aya Halabi (she/her/hers), University of Michigan

A Morphology-Sensitive Model of Agree to Account for Agreement Asymmetries in Arabic (virtual)

This paper delves into the dynamics of agreement-case interactions and their manifestations in natural languages, with a specific focus on Standard Arabic (SA) and Palestinian Arabic (PA). The primary emphasis lies on two distinct patterns of agreement variation attested in VS(O) structures: defective agreement in SA as opposed to full agreement in PA. I argue that the realization of ϕ -agreement in these languages is intricately linked to case-marked nominals (see e.g., Baker 2008, 2012, 2013; Atlamaz & Baker 2018). I refine this argument in three questions: (i) Why is ϕ -agreement sensitive to case-marked nominals in these languages? (ii) why can variation in agreement manifestation still arise within a universal operation like Agree (Chomsky 2000, 2011)? (iii) what are the implications of (i) & (ii) for the theory of Agree?

- Andrew Kato (he/him/his), University of California Santa Cruz

Relative measures and the interpretation of proportional alternatives

A growing question since Ahn & Sauerland (2015a,b, 2017) is how relative measure phrases (e.g., 20% (of) students) can denote a reversed quantificational meaning and in what contexts. I address this question by demonstrating that the distributional asymmetries of English relative measures in a variety of constructions correlate with availability of subextraction and topicalization, thus lending support to a covert movement analysis overall. However, I call into question the wholesale validity of focus as a crucial factor in capturing these empirical phenomena, and show that salience to proportional alternatives encounters cross-linguistic hurdles when compared to a language similarly restricted in relative measures such as Mandarin.

- Yunhui Kim (she/her/hers), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

On Korean 'Why': Its Syntactic and Semantic Properties

This study investigates different types of Korean why-interrogatives: Full-fledged why-interrogative, why-slucing, and why-stripping. The adjunct wh-interrogatives have been known for their peculiar semantic and syntactic characteristics. In the case of Korean, the constructions in question have different characteristics from those of Indo-European languages; however, they have not been fully appreciated. This study examines characteristics of Korean why-interrogatives and highlights the peculiar characteristics with some noble data. After examining each different characteristic, I will present the underlying structures of Korean why-interrogatives.

- Zimo Kong (she/her/hers), University of Wisconsin-Madison

Generational Differences in the Use of Rhotacization in Beijing Dialect

The focus of this study is on how rhotacization performs among native speakers of Beijing dialect at varying ages, and whether rhotacization in Beijing dialect is less used in younger generations, which could shed a light on the exploration upon generational differences in Beijing dialect. The preliminary results of the study reveal that rhotacization is more

frequently observed among older generations in daily conversation. The influence of standard Mandarin, migration factors and speech tempo are all considered to be the potential reasons that may lead to different uses of rhotacization across generations.

- Henry Nomeland (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Madison

Interpretable Dialect Classification: A Statistical Modeling Pipeline for Identifying Phonetic Dialect Features

While analyzing dialect variation has historically required careful transcription and specialist analysis, variations can now be identified using machine learning. This research trains classification models such as random forests on features such as vowel formants to classify speakers by their locations of origin. Interpretation methods which account for intercorrelated features then identify which phonetic characteristics the models most heavily rely on. These methods identify the frequent /ɔ/ and /ɑ/ distinction between Americans and Britons in words like 'call,' the short-a raising common among New Yorkers, and several other characteristics, demonstrating a novel and objective method for understanding regional speech.

- Daniel Quigley (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Be Reasonable! Relating Logical Models and Vector Spaces for NLP Interpretability

Two orthogonal approaches to natural language semantics include: generative formal semantics; distributional compositional semantics. The former uses typed-logic model theory to study the procedures that speakers use for interpretation of language; the latter induces meaning from unlabeled language data by representing words and phrases as points in a high-dimensional vector space. The results of this study show that language interpretation by extensional models in generative linguistics is at least homomorphic to distributional vector space models, showing a connection between two otherwise distinct philosophies of language, and provide an interpretable mathematical and linguistic framework for language reasoning tasks in NLP.

- Dirk Schmidt (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Madison

L1 & L2 grammaticality judgments of Tibetan

This poster presentation explores grammaticality judgments of non-standard features of Tibetan speech by first language (L1) speakers and second language (L2) learners. While the Tibetan spoken in the diaspora is frequently presented as a 'standard' language based on Central Lhasa Tibetan, these standards are not codified or taught in any explicit way in L1 contexts. They are, however, taught to L2 learners. Meanwhile, everyday speech in the diaspora—as evidenced in speech corpora—contains many frequent forms that are unrecognized or underrepresented in the literature. How do L1 speakers and L2 learners evaluate the grammaticality of these non-standard, but frequent, forms?

- Finn Shepherd (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Madison

"Bist du ein Smombie? Heb je tinderellasyndroom?": English Influence in Youth Word of the Year Lists in Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands

In Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands English is a commonly taught foreign language; youth in these countries are additionally exposed to English outside of school via

popular media and the internet. This talk discusses an analysis of 2010-2017 Youth Word of the Year lists (YWY lists), which are a helpful tool to track English influence as they show current language trends amongst youth and are ultimately determined by youth voters. I will address if English is taking over Dutch and German youth speech, how English terms appear on the lists (as direct loans, nativized forms, and partial substitutions) and why youth use these English terms opposed to Dutch or German terms.

- Daniel Stelzer (they/them), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Solving a 5,000-Year-Old Problem: New Tools for Teaching Cuneiform

Unfamiliar words are a perennial problem in second-language learning, and in a logographic writing system, there's no alphabetical order to help out. Cuneiform students have struggled with this for thousands of years. But can modern technology provide a solution? We propose a new "recursive encoding" to represent the relationships between strokes in a sign, allowing students to search for unknown signs more easily than ever before, and a graphical input method for it. Preliminary experiments suggest students using our tools are faster, more accurate, and less tired than with a traditional dictionary.

- Shuyang Ye (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Madison

Linguistics in Healthcare: Complaints and Complaint Responses in Patient-Physician E-dialogues on the Chinese Healthcare Platform Hao-Daifu 'Good Doctors'

Linguistics in healthcare can be highly important to people's everyday life. However, prior studies paid little attention to the use of communicative acts, especially complaints, in doctor-patient e-dialogues. This paper presents the solidarity-/rapport-building (social) functions of complaint-response sequences through their discursive practices (recurring patterns) in online medical consultations, with a focus on the Chinese healthcare setting. Evidence of (mainly non-hearer-oriented) complaining norms and complaint responses reveals that even potentially face-threatening acts (FTAs) could enhance solidarity, rather than only engender conflicts. The speech-act-related findings may further shed light on the co-construction of face, politeness, and rapport between physicians and patients during Computer-Mediated Communication in this post-COVID age.

- Yaqian Zhao (she/her/hers), University of Wisconsin-Madison

A Corpus-assisted Analysis of Dissertation Acknowledgements Written in Chinese: A Diachronic Approach

Virtually every dissertation includes an acknowledgment section to thank those who have offered support for the writer's dissertation. Dissertation acknowledgements (DA) may vary across times, disciplines, or cultures. This presentation examines the change of Chinese DAs in terms of their generic structures and formality of language over the past few decades, with the aim of documenting the diachronic development of this particular type of academic discourse. With the assistance of a mini corpus, I was able to examine the generic structures, including moves and steps, and the formality of language, such as the use of address terms and authorial subjects.

- **Liumao Zhong (he/him/his), Stony Brook University & Yuhuan Wang (she/her/hers), SIT**
Relational Valuation and the Interpretation of the Possessive Head (**virtual**)

Mandarin Chinese allows a pseudo-possessive construction like *Ta de zi xie de hao* 'S/he writes good characters' where the possessive phrase *ta de zi* 'his character' is interpreted as a verb semantics. This article argues that the possessive head requires thematic specification, and the verbal semantics arise from specification by verbs. However, thematic specification is not for free but requires local configuration, with a comprehensive examination of the structural status of relevant items, I show that the pseudo-possessive derives its verbal semantics from a base structure like *Ta xie de zi* 'S/he writes characters'. The conversion brought about a series of structural consequences.

- **Liumao Zhong (he/him/his), Stony Brook University**
(Dis-)possessive Unaccusatives in Mandarin Chinese (**virtual poster**)

Mandarin external possessions like *Wangmian duan le yi-tiao tui* has two possible interpretations -- 'Wangmian's leg has broken.' and 'Wangmian lost a leg.' This article addresses how the second interpretation arises. I show that these structures involve a hidden possessive head in the verbal domain, which naturally explains the (dis-)possessive semantics. Meanwhile, I also show that the existence of the possessive head also explains some puzzles around Mandarin external possession constructions like transitivity and case assignment.