

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
LINGUISTICS STUDENT ORGANIZATION (LSO)

PRESENTS:

THE 17TH WORKSHOP IN GENERAL LINGUISTICS (WIGL 17)

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023 &
SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023



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17th Workshop in General Linguistics (WiGL 17)
 1221 Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison
 March 24th-25th, 2023

Friday, March 24, 2023

1:00 Registration

1:15 Opening remarks: Rajiv Rao (he/him), Director, Language Sciences, UW-Madison

1:30 Keynote, Ryan Henke (he/him), "Developing your research: Lessons from graduate school"

Moderator: TBD

2:30 Break

Session 1 - 3:00-4:30 pm (Morphology; Morphosyntax) Moderator: Vatcharit (Pond) Chantajinda (he/him/his)	
3:00	Pronominal Possession in Blackfoot Priscilla Ehrgood (she/her), Yale University
3:30	Quechua's Pseudo-Reflexive -ku, Voice, and Little v Cailie Keating (she/her), University of Wisconsin-Madison
4:00	Paradigm Alternation in Japanese Innovative Binomial Adjective Compounds Pearl Hwang (she/her), Yale University

4:30 Break

Session 2 - 5:00 - 6:30 pm (ASL; NLP) Moderator: Thomas Harb (he/him/his)	
5:00	Best Abstract Award: Lexical Variation for Four American Sign Language Signs, All of Which Mean All Megan Massoels (she/her) & Mary Lou Vercellotti (she/her) Ball State University
5:30	Decoding Authorial Style, Tone, and Mood in Poetic Translations through Natural Language Processing: An Analysis of Beowulf Daniel Quigley (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
6:00	A Cognitive Grammar introduction to the process of 'deinitialization' in ASL Nicky Macias (she/they), Gallaudet University [VIRTUAL]

6:30 pm Social/Pizza Dinner

Saturday, March 25th, 2023

9:30: Keynote, Laura Hoton (she/her), "Where do research questions come from? Tracing the development of a research agenda"

Moderator:

10:30 Break

Session 3 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (Mandarin) Moderator: David Daum (any pronouns)	
11:00	Best Abstract Award: From Connector to Discourse Marker: Categorical and Functional Evolution of Mandarin "Ranhou" ('Then') Shuyang Ye (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Madison
11:30	Why Can't Mali's Uncle Be Beaten? Liumao Zhong (he/him/his), Stony Brook University [VIRTUAL]

12:00 Lunch

Session 4 - 1:00 - 2:30 pm (Sociolinguistics; Pragmatics) Moderator: Macy Floyd (she/her)	
1:00	Is it Really Over?: A Linguistic Analysis of the Speech Acts and Promotional Genre Moves in Unsubscribe Pages Emma Larson Hinojosa (she/her), Northeastern Illinois University
1:30	Keysmashing Communities of Practice Noor Sherazi (he/him/his), American University of Sharjah
2:00	The Socio-Pragmatic Analysis of Amharic Euphemisms of Women Bamlaku Endegen (he/him/his), Addis Ababa University [VIRTUAL]

2:30 Break

3:00 posters (see titles and authors on the following page)

4:00 Break

4:30pm-6pm Final Talk Session (see following page)

Session 5 - 4:30 - 6:00 pm (Phonetics; Phonology; Virtual Posters) Moderator: Sarah Holmstrom (she/her)	
4:30	Variation across audiences: a study investigating VOT convergence for Mandarin L2 speakers of English Ke Lin (she/her) and Chloe Evered (she/her), Georgetown University
5:00	The relation between onset and coda stop consonant contrast reduction in children ages 2;06 – 4;11 Lucas Annear (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Madison
5:30	VIRTUAL POSTER: The “Hydra” Confronted: Discursive Practices of the Unequal Englishes Group on Facebook John Paul Dela Rosa (he/him/his), Northern Illinois University [VIRTUAL]
5:45	VIRTUAL POSTER: Mouth Actions as a Social Index of Gender in ASL Pronouns, Dispelling the Myth that ASL Pronominal Reference is Gender Neutral Nicky Macias (she/they), Gallaudet University [VIRTUAL]

6:00 Closing

6:30-8:30 Reception Dinner in Tripp Commons, Memorial Union

Posters (Session 3:00-4:00 PM Saturday, March 25th):

- An Empirical Examination of the Russian Dative of Possession
 - Eleanor Sand (she/her), University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Defining the Feature Geometry of Deixis and Personal Pronouns in Modern Spoken Sinhala
 - Aidan Katson (they/them), New York University
- Multiple Accusative Constructions in Korean
 - Priscilla Ehrgood (she/her), Yale University
- On Korean Why-Stripping
 - Yunhui Kim (she/her/they), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- The Dog Goes Məs Məs Məs
 - Lauren Cornwell (any pronouns), Washington State University

WiGL 17 Keynote Presentations

- Ryan Henke (he/him/his), Assistant Professor of Language Sciences, UW-Madison

This presentation discusses the process of developing your research interests and projects during graduate school, using my own experiences as a case study. I walk through the origins and development of various threads of research before, during, and after my time as a PhD student in Linguistics. From this case study, I share some advice and lessons that I learned along the way.

- Laura Horton (she/her), Assistant Professor of Language Sciences, UW-Madison

Where do research questions come from? Tracing the development of a research agenda

In this presentation I discuss the ways that my research agenda has developed and changed since starting fieldwork as a graduate student. I focus on work documenting local sign languages from a community in Guatemala. Topically, this project documents rates of lexical overlap – whether signers use the same signs for the same concepts (a process sometimes described as lexical convergence or conventionalization) – and how rates of overlap are associated with (1) frequency and regularity of social interaction, (2) demographic factors like age and gender, and (3) variability in the iconic affordances of different concepts. This presentation introduces my preliminary research agenda – motivated primarily by theoretical questions about the origins of a shared lexicon – and traces the ways that this agenda became complicated by the realities of fieldwork documentation and methodological decisions. I conclude with discussion of a new collaborative project that compares different methods for measuring conventionalization and similarity in sign languages and reflect on the ways that research questions are shaped by theoretical and methodological concerns as well as the landscape of previous studies on a given topic.

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

- Lucas Annear (he/him/his), University of Wisconsin-Madison

The relation between onset and coda stop consonant contrast reduction in children ages 2;06 – 4;11

When children lack contrast between /p, t, k/ and /b, d, g/ in onset position, does this also imply a lack of laryngeal contrast in final position? This study investigates the relationship between laryngeal contrasts for stop obstruents in onset and coda position in 14 children ages 2;6 through 3;11. Johnson and Reimers (2010) observe that voiceless stop consonants in onsets tend to lack aspiration, resulting in perceptual similarity with voiced stops, while in final position, stops tend to be perceptually devoiced (e.g. both *pig* and *big* as /bɪk/). This tendency is discussed in the context of findings from the present study, in which onset contrast reduction does not appear to implicate coda contrast reduction.

- Lauren Cornwell (any pronouns), Washington State University

The Dog Goes *Məs Məs Məs*

“The Dog Goes *Məs Məs Məs*” is an investigation into the grammatical category of Sakun ideophones. Previously categorized as a distinct part of speech, new discoveries in the corpus demanded a closer look. This study determined that Sakun ideophones are actually adverbs and not a fully distinct part of speech.

- John Paul Dela Rosa (he/him/his), Northern Illinois University

The “Hydra” Confronted: Discursive Practices of the Unequal Englishes Group on Facebook [VIRTUAL]

This paper describes the discursive practices of the *Unequal Englishes* group on Facebook, using van Dijk’s (2001) critical discourse analysis (CDA) framework, as cited in Satchel & Bush (2020), and McComiskey’s (2015) three-dimensional critique. To uncover the discursive practices of the group, validity, subjects, and sources, served as units of analysis. The study is deemed to have positive consequences and value on the battle against *The Hydra* (ideologies that disenfranchise localized and indigenized varieties of English) and on the necessity of diversifying and pluralizing the teaching of writing and composition in many English language classrooms.

- Priscilla Ehrgood (she/her), Yale University

Pronominal Possession in Blackfoot

- Priscilla Ehrgood (she/her), Yale University

Multiple Accusative Constructions in Korean

- Bamlaku Endegenä (he/him/his), Addis Ababa University

The Socio-Pragmatic Analysis of Amharic Euphemisms of Women [VIRTUAL]

Native Amharic speakers are forbidden from making direct references to virginity, taking virginity, menstruation, abortion, menopause, wives, concubines, and prostitutes in public. They used a number of euphemisms instead. In the contexts of churches, mosques, homes, schools, and hospitals, language users used a variety of euphemism-building strategies, including metaphor, idiom, circumlocution, understatement, overstatement, and borrowing. In the research locations, which include the Debre Markos, Lumammie, and Gundewoyin woredas, native Amharic speakers employed a range of euphemistic construction approaches in diverse social circumstances to avoid uttering taboo terms, to minimize humiliation, fear, and disgust, to show politeness, and to save face.

- Pearl Hwang (she/her), Yale University

Paradigm Alternation in Japanese Innovative Binomial Adjective Compounds

In Japanese, adjectives fall into two distinct inflectional paradigms: one that takes the *-i* ending and one that takes the *-na* ending. The vast majority of adjective roots can only take one or the other of the two paradigms. However, an increasingly productive process of compounding appears to be giving rise to adjective stems that consist of two elements (termed *innovative binominal adjectives* (IBAs) by Akita & Murasugi 2022), many of which seem to be able to take on *both* the *i-* and the *na-*paradigms. This presentation proposes an analysis under Distributed Morphology (Halle & Marantz 1994) to provide a structural account for the observation that many IBA stems appear to exhibit both types of adjectival inflectional paradigms.

- Aidan Katson (they/them), New York University

Defining the Feature Geometry of Deixis and Personal Pronouns in Modern Spoken Sinhala

In Modern Spoken Sinhala, third-person pronouns may appear with demonstrative elements prefixed to them. I explore these forms in conversation with a feature geometry provided by Harley and Ritter (2002), arguing that the person-oriented deixis shown in Sinhala is defined utilizing the same features with which personal pronouns encode person: Speaker and Addressee. Assuming these features are introduced at the left edge of some underlying structure for personal pronouns, this featural definition neatly captures why these demonstrative prefixes only appear in third-person pronouns. Such pronouns otherwise go unspecified for both Speaker and Addressee, allowing the deictic system to value the features without interfering with an existing specification.

- Cailie Keating (she/her), University of Wisconsin-Madison

Quechua's Pseudo-Reflexive -ku, Voice, and Little v

One controversial question in Linguistics is whether passive-like constructions are the result of syntactic movement or accounted for in the lexicon (Wasow 1977; Bresnan 1982; Marantz 1984). Quechua's pseudo-reflexive suffix -ku has become a part of this debate because not only can it account for reflexivity, but it can also generate anti-causative, unaccusative, and inchoative constructions. Additionally, it can derive idiosyncratic verbs from nouns. In this presentation, I present a morphosyntactic analysis that argues in favor of -ku's characteristics being synonymous with those associated with the functional projection little v (Chomsky 1995), thus allowing it to serve as its nuclear head.

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

On Korean Why-Stripping

This paper explores Korean 'why'-stripping with a new property which has not been explored in previous studies. English 'why'-stripping appears in a fixed word order, a construction where a wh-remnant 'why' is followed by a non-wh-remnant, as in 'Why NATTO (and not another food)?' as a reaction to a statement 'John was eating natto.' However, Korean 'why'-stripping can exhibit not only a wh-remnant followed by a non-wh-remnant but also a wh-remnant following a non-wh-remnant, such as 'Natto-lul way? (Natto-ACC why?)'. I draw attention to this unexamined 'why'-stripping as well as canonical 'why'-stripping and give an analysis of both constructions.

- Emma Larson Hinojosa (she/her), Northeastern Illinois University

Is it Really Over?: A Linguistic Analysis of the Speech Acts and Promotional Genre Moves in Unsubscribe Pages

Have you ever tried to unsubscribe from a retailer's email list only to be taken to another webpage with phrases like, "We are sorry", "Are you still interested?", and "Is it really over?" There exist a number of linguistic strategies that companies use to retain customers, even when they are attempting to opt out of email communication. This session presents an analysis of 66 Unsubscribe Pages using the tools of Speech Act Theory and Genre Analysis. Specifically, the analysis identified the most common Genre Moves and Speech Acts involved in these strategically worded messages, such as apologies, requests, and offers. Additionally, the study explored the differences in messaging toward different generations.

- Ke Lin (she/her) and Chloe Evered (she/her), Georgetown University

Variation across audiences: a study investigating VOT convergence for Mandarin L2 speakers of English

While a robust body of research has examined phonetic convergence in L2 speakers' vowel productions, fewer studies investigate L2 convergence with respect to consonant features. The present study uses Voice Onset Time (VOT), a feature of stop consonants, to investigate convergence in L2 English speech by native speakers of Mandarin. In particular, we explore the effect of participants' belief about an interlocutor's L1 status on the degree of VOT convergence using a contextualized, computer-mediated shadowing task. Our study contributes to existing literature on VOT by drawing attention not only to VOT duration but the ranking in length of VOT duration by place of articulation.

- Nicky Macias (she/they), Gallaudet University

A Cognitive Grammar introduction to the process of 'deinitialization' in ASL [VIRTUAL]

- Nicky Macias (she/they), Gallaudet University

Mouth Actions as a Social Index of Gender in ASL Pronouns, Dispelling the Myth that ASL Pronominal Reference is Gender Neutral [VIRTUAL]

- Megan Massoels (she/her), Ball State University

Best Abstract Award: Lexical Variation for Four American Sign Language Signs, All of Which Mean All

American Sign Language (ASL) is a spatial visual language (Stokoe, 1960) and like all languages, has variation based on geographical regional, age, ethnicity, (Lucas et. al., 2003). In addition, variation patterns can be related to language-internal syntactic variation (MacDonald, 2013). This study investigated the variation in use among ASL signs that convey the meaning of 'entirety' or 'all' from native ASL signers. This study included two types of data collection: language elicitation and grammatical judgments. The data suggest that the spatial characteristics of the noun explains the overarching pattern for the variant choice, although age (or language change) might be driving some of the variant choice.

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

Decoding Authorial Style, Tone, and Mood in Poetic Translations through Natural Language Processing: An Analysis of Beowulf

This project explores the intricacies of literary translation, with a focus on poetry, by examining how different translations convey authorial style, tone, and mood. Translating literature involves a delicate balance between preserving the original text's meaning and creating something evocative in the target language. This task is particularly challenging for poetry, where word choice, rhythm, and syllables are crucial to the work's impact. The study analyzes Beowulf translations, looking at token frequencies, morphology, syntax, and vocabulary, using natural language processing techniques to identify authorial style, tone, and mood. This research demonstrates the potential of computational tools in literary studies, educating those interested in the basics of natural language processing. Ultimately, the findings will provide valuable insights into literary translation and contribute to developing more advanced language models sensitive to style, tone, and mood.

- Eleanor Sand -(she/her), University of Wisconsin-Madison

An Empirical Examination of the Russian Dative of Possession

This study provides an empirical data-driven analysis of the Russian dative of possession, comparing formal native Russian speaker acceptability judgements with the prevailing literature on the topic, which lacks empirical support. According to the literature, when a dative possessor is used with alienable possession, the inference that the possessor was wearing the possessum arises. The results of this present study partially support this. And the results fully confirm the literature on the dative of possession with kinship terms, namely, that a dative possessor generates the inference that the possessum functioned as, but was not the actual kin relation. As this was pilot testing, further experimentation and analysis is planned.

- Noor Sherazi (he/him/his), American University of Sharjah

Keysmashing Communities of Practice

This presentation reports on an on-going study that explores keysmashing. Keysmashing is an emerging linguistic feature of instant messaging characterized by randomness with forms and functions understood by its users, e.g. "HHFJD." Pragmatic analysis of 265 keysmashes finds that keysmashing functions primarily to indicate laughter, excitement, face saving acts, and backchannelling. Interview data from nine interviews reveals a community of practice of keysmashers identified by young age within queer and fandom communities. Despite its apparent chaos, keysmashing has identifiable formal and functional features and acts as a non-standard linguistic feature in the sociolect of youth, queer, and fandom communities online.

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

Best Abstract Award: From Connector to Discourse Marker: Categorical and Functional Evolution of Mandarin "Ranhou" ('Then')

As one of the most frequently used Mandarin conjunctions, "*ranhou*" ('*then*') has been widely explored for its classification, discourse functions, and mechanism of grammaticalization in Chinese linguistic studies. However, previous studies have not adequately addressed both categorial evolution (across different classifications/linguistic categories) and functional development (across different layers of pragmatic-discourse functions) of *ranhou*. This paper uses data-driven and qualitative methods to categorize and analyze a series of pragmatic-discourse functions of *ranhou*, in accordance with its categorial evolution from compound phrase to conjunction/connector to discourse marker. It may shed new light on the historical development of Mandarin conjunctions, especially the development of one particular grammatical/pragmatic category.

- Liumao Zhong (he/him/his), Stony Brook University

Why Can't Mali's Uncle Be Beaten? [VIRTUAL]