

***The UW - Madison Linguistics Student
Org welcomes you to***

The 20th Annual Workshop in General Linguistics (WiGL 20)

***Thursday, March 12th, 2026 -
Saturday, March 14th, 2026***



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GLOBAL BADGER
EXPERIENCE GRANT

20th Workshop in General Linguistics (WiGL 20)

University of Wisconsin–Madison
All In-Person Events in 7191 & 6191 Helen C. White Hall
March 12th-14th, 2026

Thursday, March 12, 2026 - ONLINE ONLY

Online Talk Session 1 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Moderator(s):	
2:00	Spanish Generic Null Objects Carlos Martínez-García ['karˈloʃ maɾˈtineθ gaɾˈθia] (he/him), Universidad Complutense de Madrid
2:30	Best Abstract Award: Noun Type and Quantitative Influences on the Sentence Production of the Mandarin Optional Plural Marker "men" Pu Meng [pu: mɛŋ] (she/her), George Mason University
3:00	The Sociolinguistic Aspect of Fan and Original Fiction on AO3 Or, How the Writing Process Became Participatory in the Digital Era Atticus Yang [atɪkʊs ɹɑŋ] (he/him), University of Chicago

3:30 Break

Online Talk Session 2 - 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Moderator(s):	
4:00	Scripted by the West: Fundamentalization of Western Phonological Intuitions in the International Phonetic Alphabet Selam Ambaw [sələm ambəʊ] (she/her), Harvard College
4:30	What Adult Speech Reveals About Child Language Acquisition: Evidence from ATR Vowel Harmony Production in Akan Heritage Speakers Rebecca Dufie Bonney [rɪˈbɛkə duˌfiːə bɒni] (she/her), Boston University
5:00	Effective Pragmatic Principles for Non-Coercive Investigative Interviewing Rachel Iannarelli [ˌrætʃəl aɪnəˈrɛli] (she/her), Hofstra University

5:30 Break/Dinner

Online Poster Session 1 - 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Moderator(s):	
7:30	Hands That Chop and Hands That Lift: Negation Gestures in English and Mandarin Kylie Chiu (she/her), Taipei American School
7:45	More Than Meaning: How Language Choice Shapes Impressions of Shop Signs Phoebe Chuang [f'i:bi: tʃw'ɒŋ] (she/her), Kang Chiao International School
8:00	Constructing, Navigating, and Maintaining the Economy: Metaphors of Economies in the Global South Jerming Lu (he/him), Taipei Fuhsing Private School
8:15	From Journeys to Markets: A Corpus-Based Metaphor Study on Renewable Energy Yu-Huan Chen [jy: hwɑ:n tʃɛn] (he/him), Taipei Fuhsing Private School

Friday, March 13, 2026 - Morning Events Online

Online Talk Session 3 - 8:30 am - 10:00am Moderator(s):	
8:30	Study on the *Discommunication Between a Doctor and a Patient: A Case Study of Dental Care Edmund Boamah ['ɛdmənd 'boɑ:mɑ:] (he/him), University of Göttingen
9:00	Real-time processing and comprehension of scalar and ad hoc implicatures in autistic and typically developing children Federica Longo ¹ [fe.de'ri.ka 'loŋ.go] (she/her) & Alessandra Falzone ² (she/her), Università degli Studi di Messina ¹ , Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona ²
9:30	Can AI Speak Like Us? An Analysis of Accent Replication in Speech Synthesis Pablo Rotaeta Pérez ['paβlo ro.ta'e.ta 'pe.reθ] (he/him), Stockholm University & KTH Royal Institute of Technology

10:00 Break

Online Poster Session 2 - 10:30 am - 11:15 am Moderator(s):	
10:30	The Semantics of Multiple Wh-Questions in Bangla Md. Jamal Hossain [mohammad dʒamal hosain] (he/him), UW–Milwaukee
10:45	Seeing Themselves in Their Writing: Self-Assessment and Portfolios as Identity Tools for Bilingual Adolescents Aqsa Faheem Khuhro ['ɑ:k.sɑ: fahim 'xu:.rou] (she/her), National University of Modern Languages
11:00	Theoretical discussion on Word-level Negation: First Corpus-driven Insights from Italian Lucrezia Sabia [lukrɛ:tsja sabi:a] (she/her), Università di Roma Tre

IN-PERSON EVENTS BEGIN - 7191 Helen C. White Hall

1:15 Registration begins

1:30 Opening remarks: Rajiv Rao [ɹɑdʒiv ɹɑʊ] (he/him), Director, Language Sciences, UW–Madison

1:45 Keynote: Dr. Lina Brixey ['linə bɹɪksɪ] (she/her), Anna Julia Cooper Postdoctoral Fellow, Information School, UW–Madison

Moderator(s):

2:45 Break

In Person Talk Session 1 - 3:15 pm - 4:45 pm Moderator(s):	
3:15	The Arrival of Southern English in Oklahoma Chase Carter [tʃɛs kɑrdɪ] (he/him), UW–Madison
3:45	Voice Onset Time in Turkish Radio Speech: Corpus Evidence for Aspirating-Type Voicing Patterns Connor Dewey ['kənəɪ 'du:ɪ] (he/him), UW–Madison
4:15	What Makes Chinese Words Prominent? Data from Heritage Speakers B Dowling ['bi 'dæ.lɪn] or [biʌ] (he/him), UW–Madison

4:45 Break

In Person Talk Session 2 - 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Moderator(s):	
5:00	Podcasts in French: Investigating contextual L2 vocabulary learning Grace Stephenson [greɪs stɪvɪnsən] (she/her), Georgetown University
5:30	Best Abstract Award: The effect of accent on children and adults' word learning Emily Bagan [ɜməli beɪɡɪn] (she/her) & Margarita Kaushanskaya (she/her), UW–Madison

6:00 pm Social/Pizza Dinner

Saturday, March 14th, 2026 - 6191 Helen C. White Hall

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

9:00 Keynote: Resisting, Reflecting, and Reimagining: A Journey Toward Liberatory Linguistics in World Language Education

Dr. L.J. Randolph Jr. [ɛl.dʒeɪ.ˈrænd.ɔlf] (he/any), Assistant Professor of World Language Education, UW–Madison

Moderator(s):

10:00 Break

In Person Talk Session 3 - 10:30 am - 12:00 pm Moderator(s):	
10:30	Cross-linguistic studies of Yoruba L1 production of English word-initial stops Mariam Balogun (she/her), UW–Madison
11:00	The Poverty of the Stimulus in L2 Acquisition: The Case of Final Devoicing Meadow Conner [mɛd.oʊ ˈkənər] (she/her), Lisa Quintero [li.sə kin.te.ɹo] (she/her) & Charles Rojas [tʃɑrlz ˈro.xas] (he/him) UW–Milwaukee
11:30	Gliding on the Surface: A Phonetic Investigation of Hiatus Resolution in Zezuru Shona Evalynn Bogusz [ˈɛvəlɪn ˈboʊɡəʃ] (she/her), Dartmouth College

12:00 Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:00pm In-Person Poster Session 1

- Nominalized Complement Constructions and Island Effects Across English and Spanish: A Cross-Linguistic Acceptability Study
 - Kevin de Armas Buchhorsts ['kevin de 'armas 'boxhorsts] (he/him), UW–Madison
- Voice Onset Time in Italian as an L3: Phonological Transfer in Spanish-English Bilinguals
 - Lucy Jumbeck [lu.si dʒʌm.bək] (she/her), UW–Madison
- The Linguistic Landscape of Chicago's Chinatown
 - Renee Chau [ɹi'nei tʃaʊ] (she/her), UW–Madison
- **Best Abstract Award:** SVCs What they tell us about exceed comparative constructions
 - Abena Agyeiwaa Amoh-Yankyer (she/her), University of Kansas
- Spicy Language: An analysis of pain-initiated style-shift
 - Joydip Chatterjee [dʒɔɪ.dɪp tʃæ.ʃɜ.ɔʃi] (he/him), UW–Madison
- Controlled Overt Pronominals in Akan
 - Anthony Amissah (he/him), UW–Milwaukee
- A New Perspective in Analyzing English and Mandarin Deictic Verbs
 - Yongjia Deng [təŋ jʊŋ tɕjɑ] (she/her), UW–Madison

2:15 pm - 3:15pm In-Person Poster Session 2

- Iterativity and Valence Prefix Coordination in Navajo
 - Seth Wyatt [sɛθ 'waɪ.ət] (he/him), University of New Mexico
- The Influence of English on Naming in Thai Mass Media
 - Piyaboot Sumonsriworakun (he/they), UW–Madison
- Towards Transformer-Based A-maze Distractor Generation: Preliminary Findings and Limitations
 - Kuangzi Li¹ (he/him), Song Zhou¹ [suŋ tʃou] (she/her), Kevin de Armas Buchhorsts¹ ['kevin de 'armas 'boxhorsts] (he/him), Kristen Fleckenstein² & Juliet Huynh¹, UW–Madison¹ and Coastal Carolina University²
- Morphological Processing of Hybrid Forms in Puerto Rican Spanish–English Bilinguals
 - Fabiola Martinez Del Valle (she/her), UW–Madison
- Geographical Patterns in the Interlinguistic Structures of Post-Colonial Irish Placenames
 - Charlotte Neumann [ʃʌlɒt numɪn] (she/they), UW–Madison
- Morphological processing of inflected Spanish verbs in heritage bilinguals
 - Rabia Perez Gonzalez [raβja per'eθ ɡ,ɒnθal'eθ] (any pronouns), UW–Madison
- Pues As an Indicator of Anti-Mirativity in Spanish
 - Eden Robbins ['i:dn 'ɹɒbɪns] (she/her), Hendrix College
- A new approach to assessing the deriving and scaling of adjectival scalar implicatures of L2 English learners
 - Meng-Han Sandy Shao [məŋ-han səndi ʃao] (she/her), Jill McLeod (she/her), & Ryan Shin (he/him), UW–Madison

In Person Talk Session 4 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm Moderator(s):	
3:45	Linguistic Revitalization Under Colonial Conditions: The Case of Mapuzungun and Emerging AI Tools Victoria Hidalgo Vargas [bik'torja i'ðalyo 'βaryas] (she/her/ella), Ohio University
4:45	Best Abstract Award: Creating a root-based dictionary for the Cherokee Language Charlie Gᵐ McVicker ['tʃɔli tʃɔl mɪk'vɪkər] (she/her), ᵐWY.ᵐ Dᵐ (Cherokee Nation)

5:15 Break

In Person Talk Session 5 - 5:00pm - 6:00pm Moderator(s):	
5:00	De-Serialization in Akan Anthony Amissah (he/him) & Emmanuel Appiah Gyasi [ɪ'mæn.jʊəl ap'ia dʒɛsɪ] (he/him), UW–Milwaukee
5:30	Recurrent Gestures and Gesture Space: a Quantitative Approach Aleksandra Rewerska [alɛksandra rɛvɛrska] (she/her), Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań

6:00 Closing

6:00-8:00 Reception Dinner

WiGL 20 Keynote Presentations

- Dr. L.J. Randolph Jr. [ɛl.dʒe 'ɹæn.dɒlf] (he/any), Assistant Professor of World Language Education, UW–Madison

Resisting, Reflecting, and Reimagining: A Journey Toward Liberatory Linguistics in World Language Education

A guiding question that has shaped my journey as a languager, student, linguist, and educator asks: How might we create and sustain spaces of transformation, liberation, and joy within institutional, instructional, and ideological contexts shaped by histories and realities of erasure and inequity? In this talk, I trace the inception and evolution of my work and exploration of that question through the lens of liberatory linguistics—a framework that empowers individuals from marginalized and minoritized identities to language on their own terms. Drawing from experiences across research, teaching, learning, and service, I reflect on how academic inquiry, classroom praxis, and professional engagement intersect in the pursuit of more just and humanizing language education. Together, we will explore the challenges and possibilities of this work and consider how linguistics/linguists might contribute to collective liberation in a variety of contexts.

- Dr. Lina Brixey, ['li:nə b.ɹɪksɪ] (she/her), Anna Julia Cooper Postdoctoral Fellow, Information School, UW–Madison

Technology for Indigenous Languages

This talk will discuss useful roles where technologies, including AI, can be used to improve and ease the process of language documentation and revitalization. I will present some of my past and present projects developing Indigenous language technology, including a chatbot, a speech-to-text system, and a handwriting text recognizer. I'll also share my experiences working with language communities and ways to think about data sovereignty in this era of big data and generative AI.

Presentation Summaries

(in alphabetical order by first author's last name)

- Anthony Amissah (he/him) & Emmanuel Appiah Gyasi [ɪ'mæn.juəl ap'ɪə dʒəsi] (he/him), UW–Milwaukee

De-Serialized Structure in Akan

We discuss De-serialised structures in Akan, arguing for a semantics analysis of the Theme/applied DP (Hovav & Levin, 2008). Building on previous accounts we maintain a single Appl-head and treat *de* as a defective V_1 selecting the extended projection of V_2 , with all theta roles introduced low. We argue that De-serialization is determined by the Theme/applied DP's semantics, specifically a resource condition that requires the DP to be physically or metaphorically handleable under the agent's control. Crucially we propose a unified approach that captures the semantics of the Theme/applied DP and the relationship between the Appl-head and its core arguments

- Selam Ambaw [səlam ambau] (she/her), Harvard College

Scripted by the West: Fundamentalization of Western Phonological Intuitions in the International Phonetic Alphabet

Over its 137 years, the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) has become a ubiquitous tool in the modern linguist's kit, offering a common system to represent all human speech sounds. Common that is, but not objective. Enter this project, which interrogates the Roman-based script IPA not as universal, but rather demonstrably Eurocentric: its representation of the sonic space relying on Western phonemic and orthographic conventions. Using the IPA and its creator Paul Passy as a case study in knowledge production, this presentation will examine quantitatively and qualitatively how privileged epistemes can be naturalized within the very tools that define academic inquiry, even with anti-imperialist intentions.

- Emily Bagan [ʒməli beɪɡɪn] (she/her) & Margarita Kaushanskaya (she/her), UW–Madison
The effect of accent on children and adults' word learning (**Best Abstract Award**)

Accented speech has been found to negatively impact language processing in adults and children, yet little is known about how accented speech influences word learning. In two experiments, we ask: *how do monolingual English-speaking adults (Experiment 1) and children (Experiment 2) learn and retain novel words across time scales when exposed to accent variability?* Using a cross-situational word learning paradigm, we found that adults and children retained words across accents (i.e., native English vs Spanish) when tested immediately and after a short delay. Adults demonstrated higher accuracy for Spanish-accented words compared to native English accented words in the short delay but not immediate condition, whereas accent did not influence children's word learning outcomes.

- Evalynn Bogusz [ˈɛvəlɪn ˈboʊɡəʃ] (she/her), Dartmouth College

Gliding on the Surface: A Phonetic Investigation of Hiatus Resolution in Zezuru Shona

Vowel hiatus is avoided in Bantu languages. One established resolution strategy in Zezuru Shona states that when preceded by a consonant that can be labialized and followed by a vowel,

rounded vowels are realized as labialization on the preceding consonant. Comparing center of gravity between proposed secondary articulation labialized realizations and consonant realizations preceding rounded vowels revealed no distinction. This strategy may not be movement of a rounded vowel to share an onset as labialization, but rather elision of a rounded vowel that maintains existing labialization. This may imply that hiatus resolution obscures the environment conditioning labialization, creating a secondary split.

- Mariam Balogun (she/her), UW–Madison

Cross-linguistic studies of Yoruba L1 production of English word-initial stops

This study explores cross-linguistic influence in the production of English word-initial stop consonants by native Yoruba speakers. Using acoustic cues, it compares Yoruba L1 speakers' realization of English /p, t, k, b, d, g/ with that of native English speakers. Yoruba productions of shared stop consonants are also analyzed to assess L1 transfer effects. Results show that Yoruba speakers generally approximate English-like voicing patterns, indicating acquisition of voicing contrasts. However, closure duration remains partially influenced by Yoruba timing, demonstrating selective phonetic interference across temporal dimensions in second-language stop production.

- Edmund Boamah ['ɛdmənd 'boɑ:mɑ:] (he/him), University of Göttingen

Study on the *Discommunication Between a Doctor and a Patient: A Case Study of Dental Care

This presentation examines discommunication in dentist–patient interactions in Oforikrom Municipality, Ghana. In multilingual clinical settings, dental practitioners typically use English and technical terminology, while many patients are more proficient in Akan. This linguistic mismatch can hinder comprehension of diagnoses and procedures such as extraction, scaling, and root canal treatment. Using audio-recorded consultations, interviews, and qualitative discourse analysis, the study explores how patients and practitioners navigate medical jargon and language barriers. Findings highlight the role of ad-hoc translation, paraphrasing, and culturally grounded explanations, emphasizing the importance of indigenous language use in promoting patient understanding and culturally responsive healthcare delivery.

- Chase Carter [tʃɛɪs kɑːdɪ] (he/him), UW–Madison

The Arrival of Southern English in Oklahoma

The present research investigates the introduction of Southern English into the Oklahoma region. Previous conjecture suggests that Southern English may have been brought by refugees from Indian Removal policies, although these claims are yet unsubstantiated. In this talk, I analyze interview data from the town of Ardmore, OK and census data from Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory. Through demographic research and individual case studies, I find cursory evidence to link Oklahoman Southern English to Indian Removal, and present a case for further future attention to this topic.

- Connor Dewey ['kanəɪ 'du:ɪ] (he/him), UW–Madison

Voice Onset Time in Turkish Radio Speech: Corpus Evidence for Aspirating-Type Voicing Patterns

Voice Onset Time (VOT) is a highly robust acoustic measurement utilized to classify the underlying voicing contrasts of human languages. While Turkish is conventionally categorized as a "true voicing" language possessing a simple two-way laryngeal contrast, rigorous empirical investigations have previously proposed challenges regarding this classification. This presentation seeks to provide an initial acoustic analysis of running, spontaneous radio broadcast speech extracted from the Spoken Turkish Corpus. By analyzing this unscripted articulation, the preliminary findings lend themselves to the idea that Turkish displays elements of an aspirating language in running speech.

- B Dowling ['bi 'dæ.lɪn] or [biʌ] (he/him), UW–Madison

What Makes Chinese Words Prominent? Data from Heritage Speakers

While the presence of word stress in Standard Chinese is debated, whether and how heritage speakers (HSs) perceive it remains understudied. In order to investigate the acoustic features influencing HSs' prominence judgments, 29 participants completed a forced-choice experiment with 95 disyllabic stimuli. I fit a binomial logistic regression model to identify the most salient acoustic features (e.g., pitch and duration) for the participants. Positioning HSs at the forefront of the over 60-year linguistic debate, this study provides a unique perspective on Chinese prosody.

- Rebecca Dufie Bonney [rɪ'bɛkə du.fi.ə boni] (she/her), Boston University

What Adult Speech Reveals About Child Language Acquisition: Evidence from ATR Vowel Harmony Production in Akan Heritage Speakers

Language acquisition research indicates that children are "universal listeners," yet they quickly lose sensitivity to phonological features not reinforced by their environment. Heritage speakers (HSs) exemplify this, typically shifting dominance from their family language to the societal majority language upon entering school. This study investigated whether early exposure to Advanced Tongue Root (ATR) vowel harmony in childhood facilitates long-term phonological stability in Akan HSs despite early dominance shift.

The study analyzed 21 participants grouped under HSs, Established Immigrants, and Newcomers. The acoustic data revealed that HSs maintain robust ATR contrasts despite minimal daily use. These findings suggest that early-acquired phonological structures remain remarkably stable, challenging deficit-based perspectives on heritage language phonology.

- Victoria Hidalgo Vargas [bik'torja i'ðalyo 'βaryas] (she/her/ella), Ohio University

Linguistic Revitalization Under Colonial Conditions: The Case of Mapuzungun and Emerging AI Tools

This presentation examines Mapuzungun, the language of the Mapuche people of Southern Chile and Argentina. After outlining its historical development, sociolinguistic context, current vitality, and its central role in identity building and cultural resistance, the discussion reviews existing documentation and institutional frameworks, including educational reforms and curriculum policies. It then explores the role of technology in preserving and teaching Mapuzungun by surveying existing

digital resources (e.g., online dictionaries, learning platforms), and highlighting institutional, grassroots, and individual efforts. Finally, it evaluates the benefits and limitations of generative artificial intelligence in language maintenance and teaching, emphasizing ethical and technical challenges.

- Rachel Iannarelli [ˌɹetʃəl aɪnəˈɹɛli] (she/her), Hofstra University

Effective Pragmatic Principles for Non-Coercive Investigative Interviewing

Accusatory police interviewing techniques with guilt presumptive tactics pose the risk of psychological coercion through language. Existing research in psychology asserts coercive tactics can even lead to false confessions (Kassin, 2022). This study addresses these issues through linguistics, by qualitatively analyzing an instructional guide for practitioners of the controversial Reid interviewing technique, for overlaps to pragmatic principles of implicature, politeness theory, presupposition, and speech act theory. Excerpts of text are coded for applicability to each pragmatic principle and expanded upon to describe what linguistic mechanisms underlie the psychological effects of guilt presumptive questioning. This analysis shows a significant connection between pragmatic principles and coercive tactics, shedding light on an interdisciplinary area of consideration for both scholars and practitioners.

**- Federica Longo¹ [fe.de'ri.ka 'lɒŋ.go] (she/her) & Alessandra Falzone² (she/her),
Università degli Studi di Messina¹, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona²**

Real-time processing and comprehension of scalar and ad hoc implicatures in autistic and typically developing children

The present study investigates processing and comprehension of scalar and ad hoc implicatures in autistic children compared to typically developing children and adults; moreover, we examine the contribution of nonverbal intelligence, Theory of Mind, and general linguistic skills to pragmatic performance. We have assessed a group of autistic children (Mean age = 9.2), a group of typically developing children (Mean age = 9.1), and a control group of typically developing adults (Mean age = 21.66). All participants underwent cognitive and linguistic assessment. Processing and comprehension of scalar and ad hoc implicatures were assessed using a picture selection task with eye movement recordings (Tobii Dynavox PCEye 5).

**- Carlos Martínez-García [ˈkarˈlos maɾˈtineθ gaɾˈθia] (he/him),
Universidad Complutense de Madrid**

Spanish Generic Null Objects

This talk explores the constraints operating on Spanish generic null objects (e.g. Esta película sorprende Ø ‘This film surprises’). Regarding their constraints, generic null objects must occur in generic sentences, be affected by the event denoted by the verb and receive a human reading. Regarding their syntactic properties, they are syntactically represented, since they are sensitive to syntactic operations such as control, binding and secondary predication. Specifically, they are syntactically a set of D and ϕ -features (i.e., they display D, gender and number features). Regarding their analysis, we propose that they behave as variables bound by an operator.

- **Charlie Gᵐ McVicker** ['tʃa.li tʃa.ɫ mɪk'vɪkər] (she/her), **GWY.ᵅ Dᵔᵔ (Cherokee Nation)**
Creating a root-based dictionary for the Cherokee Language (**Best Abstract Award**)

We present a root-based Cherokee dictionary, which groups lexical items by their constituent morphemes. Instead of lexical items being distinguished by six reference surface forms, a standard in Cherokee lexicography, we represent them as various inflectional classes and morphemes which may be applied to a given root. Our analysis proceeds computationally with minimal human selection of derivations. In this dictionary, terms such as ànhaw-óóʔa “s/he is putting on a shirt” and ànhaw-éeʔa “s/he is taking off a shirt” are listed under a common entry (-anhaw-, “shirt/cloth”), with clear segmentation of morphemes and their contributions to meaning.

- **Pu Meng** [pu: mɛŋ] (she/her), **George Mason University**

Noun Type and Quantitative Influences on the Sentence Production of the Mandarin Optional Plural Marker “men” (**Best Abstract Award**)

This study investigates how noun type and quantity influence the use of the optional Mandarin plural marker men. Although traditionally associated with human referents, men may also reflect pragmatic and discourse-based interpretations and compete with classifier-based plural strategies. Eighty-four native speakers completed elicited speech tasks describing images that varied by noun category (human, animal, inanimate) and number condition. Results show that men is consistently used with human nouns, rarely with animals, and never with inanimates, indicating clear conceptual constraints. Speakers rely more on classifier or collective expressions outside human contexts. These findings suggest that Mandarin plural marking is guided by semantic, pragmatic, and cognitive factors rather than fixed morphology

- **Aleksandra Rewerska** [aleksandra rɛvɛrskɑ] (she/her), **Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań**
Recurrent Gestures and Gesture Space: a Quantitative Approach

During the presentation a quantitative study on the family of Open Hand recurrent gestures will be presented. Six hours of video material from an RPG session was annotated for a total of 153 gestures and properties of their spatial location: height, elbow extension and location on the horizontal axis in front of the speaker; which have not been previously studied. Results suggest that they can be useful for describing gestures and intra-family differences.

The study is one of few that tackles the matter of recurrent gestures quantitatively, and the results show that such methods can be useful for other researchers - especially since the nature of studying recurrent gestures is that many similar occurrences of them are analysed together. At the same time, the researcher acknowledges the importance of qualitative study of the groups

- **Pablo Rotaeta Pérez** ['paβlo ro.ta'e.ta 'pe.reθ] (he/him), **Stockholm University & KTH Royal Institute of Technology**

Can AI Speak Like Us? An Analysis of Accent Replication in Speech Synthesis

This study examines whether contemporary AI voice-cloning technology can faithfully reproduce regional English accents and speaker-specific phonetic traits. Using a forensic phonetic framework informed by World Englishes, natural and AI-generated speech samples of General

American, Scottish Standard, Nigerian, and Spanish English were compared. While synthetic voices approximate broad accent categories, the analysis reveals systematic prosodic simplification and loss of accent-specific detail critical for speaker identification. These findings raise concerns about accent fidelity, linguistic diversity, and potential forensic misuse. The study highlights how current voice-cloning systems may reinforce standard-accent biases and underscores the need for greater phonetic realism and ethical oversight.

- Grace Stephenson [greɪs stɪvɪnsən] (she/her), Georgetown University

Podcasts in French: Investigating contextual L2 vocabulary learning

Podcasts are one of many media tools gaining popularity for language learning purposes and offer the opportunity for listeners to learn vocabulary contextually. Affordances of podcasts include reading along with transcripts and adjusting audio speed. This study investigated contextual vocabulary learning in L2 French learners after listening-only (LO) or reading-while-listening (RWL) to a French podcast at regular speed and slowed speed. I will discuss how results suggest a relationship between audio speed and the benefits of RWL, how this relationship varied between vocabulary measures, how preferences for speed varied among learners, and finally implications for learning from media input.

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

- Anthony Amissah (he/him), UW–Milwaukee

Controlled Overt Pronominals in Akan

The paper investigates Akan constructions in which overt pronominal subjects receive obligatory control (OC) readings, challenging the classical null subject (PRO) requirement. Applying Landau's (2024) Two-Tier Theory of Control, the analysis posits that OC is established when the matrix verb provides thematic selection (Thematic Tier) and the embedded clause introduces a perspective anchored to the controller (Logophoric Tier). The presence of irrealis mood and the complementizer *se* forces the overt pronoun to function as a bound variable fitting the OC signature. The study concludes Akan exhibits noncanonical OC, established through the intersection of predicate meaning and clausal structure

- Abena Agyeiwaa Amoh-Yankyera (she/her), University of Kansas

SVCs What they tell us about exceed comparative constructions (**Best Abstract Award**)

This study investigates the syntactic status of exceed comparatives in Efutu, a Kwa language spoken in Ghana. Languages differ in how they express comparison. In many African languages, a verb meaning 'to exceed' is used instead of a comparative marker. Cross-linguistically, they have been analysed as either biclausal or monoclausal. I argue that Efutu instantiates a monoclausal serial verb construction. Based on original fieldwork data collected from elicitation and acceptability judgements, I show that the verb meaning 'exceed' retains lexical properties but patterns as the second verb in a serial verb sequence. Diagnostics involving tense marking, negation, coordination, and embedding

demonstrate a single clause structure. These findings contribute to typological debates on the structure of comparatives and serial verb constructions.

- Joydip Chatterjee [dʒɔɪ.dɪp tʃæ.ʃɪ.dʒi] (he/him), UW–Madison

Spicy Language: An analysis of pain-initiated style-shift

Speakers regularly shift style as a part of the daily act of performing self. This shift may be initiated by several variables like topic, goal, or audience. Various scholars have attempted to look at different facets of this process. In this study, I attempt to contribute to this field by looking at style-shifts initiated by acute pain. I look at interviews from the YouTube show Hot Ones, in an attempt to understand if there is a correlation between pain (spice level) and linguistic style. The results suggest that under acute pain, speakers tend to shift to their most characteristic style.

- Renee Chau [ɹi'nei tʃau] (she/her), UW–Madison

The Linguistic Landscape of Chicago's Chinatown

- Yu-Huan Chen [jy: hwa:n tʃɛn] (he/him), Taipei Fuhsing Private School

From Journeys to Markets: A Corpus-Based Metaphor Study on Renewable Energy

This study examines how the RENEWABLE ENERGY domain is conceptualized through metaphors in public discourse. Using “renewable energy” and “再生能源” as keywords, this paper collected a corpus of over 2,000 instances from media from Taiwan, the US, Germany, and the UK and identified 6 types of metaphor from the instances based on previous research. By contrasting the results for the four aforementioned countries, this study aims to offer a lens on (1) whether regions frame renewable energy differently through metaphors, (2) what the differences are, and (3) how these differences reflect people's concepts of renewable energy.

- Kylie Chiu (she/her), Taipei American School

Hands That Chop and Hands That Lift: Negation Gestures in English and Mandarin

The present study examines how speakers physically express negation-related concepts across Mandarin and English. Using TED Talks, the study analyzed 23 speakers and identified 51 negation gestures in four categories: waving, upward, chopping down, and clenched gestures. The findings reveal how English speakers tend to use firm, defensive movements to reject false assumptions (i.e., chopping down gesture), while Mandarin speakers more often rely on self-referential negations grounded in personal knowledge (i.e., upward gesture). These embodied differences highlight how meaning is negotiated beyond speech.

Phoebe Chuang [fɪ:bi: tʃw'ɒŋ] (she/her), Kang Chiao International School

More Than Meaning: How Language Choice Shapes Impressions of Shop Signs

This study investigates how the choice of language on shop signs influences people's impressions and attitudes toward stores. Researchers collected data through field observations and a questionnaire survey, photographing 50 shop signs and categorizing them by language. Selected images

were shown to participants in a Google Forms survey, where they described their impressions using adjectives, which were later analyzed.

The results show that 78% of the signs received positive responses regardless of language. However, differences emerged among language types. English and Japanese character signs generated the strongest positive reactions but conveyed different impressions. English signs were seen as modern and international, while Japanese character signs were viewed as fashionable and visually distinctive. Mandarin and Japanese romanization signs were perceived as more friendly and emotionally close, though less stylish or eye-catching.

These findings suggest that familiarity and cultural associations strongly influence perceptions. Overall, the study concludes that emotional and visual impressions have a greater impact than literal meaning in shaping consumer attitudes toward shop signs, offering useful insights for store owners and designers when choosing language to create a desired image.

Meadow Conner [mɛd.oʊ 'kənər] (she/her), Lisa Quintero [li.sa kin.te.ɪo] (she/her) & Charles Rojas [tʃɑːlz 'ro.xas] (he/him)

UW–Milwaukee

The Poverty of the Stimulus in L2 Acquisition: The Case of Final Devoicing

It has been well established in second language studies that both children and adults internalize an intermediate system when learning their second language. This intermediate system, called an interlanguage, is one that they use to produce and understand utterances in their second language, and contains different properties than the second language in which they are learning. In our study, we investigated a phenomenon of word-final devoicing in second language learners of English. Curiously, this phenomenon has been documented in previous studies to occur regardless if one's native language exhibits instances of word-final devoicing. In our study, we tested speakers of various native languages in an attempt to establish whether this pattern of word-final devoicing is a consistent pattern of L2 learners of English, and as a consequence, a consistent pattern of their interlanguage.

- Kevin de Armas Buchhorsts ['kɛvɪn de 'armas 'bʊxhɔːrsts] (he/him), UW–Madison

Nominalized Complement Constructions and Island Effects Across English and Spanish: A Cross-Linguistic Acceptability Study

This study investigates whether nominalized complement constructions (NCCs) function as syntactic islands across English and Spanish, and whether such effects are stable in bilingual grammars. Prior research shows that extraction from NCCs is degraded in English, while simpler naked infinitival complements (NICs) permit extraction. Using a 2×2 factorial design crossing Structure (NCC vs. NIC) and Sentence Type (Extraction vs. Declarative), the study compares four groups: English and Spanish monolinguals and bilinguals. Participants complete acceptability judgments on a 7-point scale. Mixed-effects models assess whether island effects reflect stable structural constraints or variability linked to language experience.

- Yongjia Deng [təŋ juŋ təjǎ] (she/her), UW–Madison

A New Perspective in Analyzing English and Mandarin Deictic Verbs

Human languages share broad cognitive foundations in how they structure and encode deictic contrast in motion events, based on the relationship between speaker, listener, and destination (Fillmore 1966). Prior work has also shown that English *come* permits extended anchoring, depending on the affiliation level of speakers and listeners with the destination. However, these cross-linguistic contrasts have not been unified under the same mechanism. This study addresses the question of whether the typology of deictic verbs can be derived from a universal deictic scale, which is an ordered structure analogous to scalar models in gradable predicate theory (Kennedy & McNally 2005), and whether speakers' word choices reflect language-specific scalar endpoints.

- Md. Jamal Hossain [mohammad dzamal hosain] (he/him), UW–Milwaukee

The Semantics of Multiple Wh-Questions in Bangla

This paper investigates the semantics of multiple wh-questions in Bangla within Kotek's (2019) alternative-semantics framework, which derives possible answers for each node through structural alternatives. Building on Dayal's (2002) presuppositions of domain exhaustivity and point-wise uniqueness, I argue that these constraints extend to multiple wh-configurations in Bangla when wh-phrases undergo covert movement at Logical Form. New data show that some constructions allow both single-pair and pair-list readings while others, including doubled wh-expressions, systematically permit only pair-list interpretations. I propose that this distribution reflects structural constraints rather than pragmatic factors, thereby extending alternative-semantics approaches to a new empirical domain.

- Lucy Jumbeck [lu.si dzʌm.bək] (she/her), UW–Madison

Voice Onset Time in Italian as an L3: Phonological Transfer in Spanish-English Bilinguals

This pilot study investigates phonological transfer in Italian as a third language (L3) among Spanish-English bilinguals, focusing on Voice Onset Time (VOT) in voiceless stops. Since Spanish and Italian share short, non-aspirated VOT patterns, unlike aspirated English, VOT serves as a useful test case. Participants completed reading tasks in all three languages, and word-initial /p/ VOT was measured acoustically. Most produced Italian VOTs closer to Spanish; only one showed English-like influence. Results suggest typological similarity plays a key role, though AOA, proficiency, and dominance require further study.

**- Kuangzi Li¹ (he/him), Song Zhou¹ [suŋ] tʂou] (she/her), Kevin de Armas¹
[ˈkɛvɪn de ˈɑrmɑs ˈboxhɔrstz] (he/him), Kristen Fleckenstein² & Juliet Huynh¹,
UW–Madison¹ and Coastal Carolina University²**

Towards Transformer-Based A-maze Distractor Generation: Preliminary Findings and Limitations

This study reports on the preliminary findings and practical and theoretical challenges involved in attempting to build a Transformer-based A-maze system. Findings reveal a discrepancy between the goals of training current language models, which heavily favor well-formed text, and the requirements of psycholinguistic tasks that rely on controlled violations. We propose that the generation of A-maze

distractors provides a valuable perspective for examining the way language models handle syntax, semantics, and adherence to constraints, as well as recognizing the boundaries of the existing techniques for controlled text generation.

- Jerming Lu (he/him), Taipei Fuhsing Private School

Constructing, Navigating, and Maintaining the Economy: Metaphors of Economies in the Global South

This paper examines how metaphors conceptualized from news media can reflect a country's economic system. Using data from famous news outlets from countries such as Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, the study identifies four dominant metaphors: living being, journey, machine, and building. While living being is the most dominant metaphor across all countries, each press reveals a different secondary metaphor: Taiwan emphasizes the economic journey and adjustment; Indonesia highlights the machine-like maintenance and state control; Malaysia stresses foundational stability. These patterns show that metaphors reflect broader economic systems across the Global South.

- Aqsa Faheem Khuhro ['ɑ:k.sɑ: fəhɪm 'xu:.rou] (she/her),

National University of Modern Languages

Seeing Themselves in Their Writing: Self-Assessment and Portfolios as Identity Tools for Bilingual Adolescents

This study examines how Dual Language Bilingual Education (DLBE) principles were adapted in a multilingual Pakistani ESL classroom and how they shaped classroom discourse and student writing. Expository writing tasks were designed to promote functional language allocation and structured cross-linguistic mediation. Data include student texts and systematic classroom observations collected under anonymised conditions. Using qualitative discourse analysis and inductive coding, the study analysed cohesion devices, stance markers, lexical shifts, metalinguistic episodes, and interactional negotiation moves. Three recurrent patterns emerged: patterned translanguaging, explicit metalinguistic regulation, and expanded argumentative elaboration.

- Fabiola Martinez Del Valle (she/her), UW–Madison

Morphological Processing of Hybrid Forms in Puerto Rican Spanish–English Bilinguals

- Charlotte Neumann [ʃɑ:lət numɪn] (she/they), UW–Madison

Geographical Patterns in the Interlinguistic Structures of Post-Colonial Irish Placenames

The English colonization of Ireland resulted in the imposition of new, modified, and standardized placenames across the island, which changed the structure, sounds, and apparent meaning of indigenous names. In this study, the treatment of determiners across the names of counties, baronies, and civil parishes was mapped using data from logainm.ie, a bilingual database of Irish placenames. Striations in how determiners were treated map onto the general path of English colonization, inviting the question of whether the type or era of colonization affected the way in which Irish names were anglicized or modified.

- Rabia Perez Gonzalez [raβja per'eθ g,onθal'eθ] (any pronouns), UW–Madison

Morphological processing of inflected Spanish verbs in heritage bilinguals

Morphological work has shown that morphological decomposition during visual word recognition is early and automatic (Rastle & Davis, 2008). More specifically, Jacob et al. (2019) suggest that bilinguals, specifically heritage bilinguals (HB), show morphological processing mechanisms similar to monolingual speakers (Jacob et al., 2019). Evidence as to whether this mechanism operates uniformly across bilinguals with different dominance profiles, however, remains limited. This pilot study investigates how Spanish-English heritage bilinguals process Spanish morphologically complex verbs. Using a lexical decision task, we compare English-dominant and Spanish-dominant bilinguals to test whether heritage bilinguals exhibit differences in priming patterns across Spanish inflectional morphology, and whether language dominance influences morphological decomposition patterns.

- Eden Robbins ['i:dn 'ɹɑbɪns] (she/her), Hendrix College

Pues As an Indicator of Anti-Mirativity in Spanish

My poster will include a simple description of the function of discourse particles as well as anti-mirativity defined as a particular form of marking “obviousness.” There will also be a short description of the survey used to collect the data as well as statistics related to the differences between L2 and heritage speakers, how the location of pues affects the availability of the anti-mirative interpretation, and how the nature of world knowledge versus personal knowledge affects the selection of pues.

- Lucrezia Sabia [lukrɛ:tsja sabi:a] (she/her), Università di Roma Tre

Theoretical discussion on Word-level Negation: First Corpus-driven Insights from Italian

The poster presentation introduces existing literature on negative prefixation, with a focus on the semantic classifications of the prefixes according to diverging approaches (formal, cognitive, lexical semantics) and on work pointing out productivity limits of this process (e.g. *unsad). The introduction is followed by a quick display of how Italian negation prefixes are positioned with respect to said literature, based on data extracted both from a high-frequency lexicon of Italian and a corpus of contemporary written Italian. Finally, the poster attempts to prompt reflection on how the semantics of word-level negation can be adequately accounted for within current theoretical linguistic models.

- Meng-Han Sandy Shao [məŋ-han səndi ʃao] (she/her), Jill McLeod (she/her), & Ryan Shin (he/him), UW–Madison

A new approach to assessing the deriving and scaling of adjectival scalar implicatures of L2 English learners

There are a plethora of examinations on Scalar Implicatures (SI) focusing on <some, all>, while understudied are SIs of gradable adjectives, which express varying degrees of quality, from weak to strong. Using L1 English derived word banks, this study looks at L1 Chinese-L2 English learners' ability to derive scalar implicatures (SIs) of gradable adjective scalemates in English through positioning on a scale. We asked whether or not L2 English learners derive SI with the same scaling as L1 English learners with a novel assessment method.

- Piyaboot Sumonsriworakun (he/they), UW–Madison

The Influence of English on Naming in Thai Mass Media

This study investigates the influence of English on naming in Thai mass media, highlighting the tension between borrowing words from a language with a Romanized script (English) into a language with a non-Romanized script (Thai), and re-examining the notion of code-mixing. Snodin (2014) predicted that in decades following her study, English would be more prevalent in Thai mass media. To test the efficacy of Snodin's claim, 350 Thai mass media names, collected between May 2024 and December 2025, were categorized into four groups: personal names, English and Thai names written in their respective scripts, and English-Thai code- or script-mixed names.

- Seth Wyatt [sɛθ 'waɪ.ət] (he/him), University of New Mexico

Iterativity and Valence Prefix Coordination in Navajo

This poster outlines the system of concord between certain aspect and valence prefixes in Navajo verbs. A small class of iterative, reversionary and semeliterative prefixation frequently coordinates with changes to the valence shift-indicating “classifier” prefix even across long distances. Other types of pluractionality indexation do not do so. This project gives basic principles of long-distance morphological coordination and some conclusions on the diachronic development of several semantically obscure elements of the intricate Navajo verb complex.

- Atticus Yang [atɪkʊs ɹɑŋ] (he/him), University of Chicago

The Sociolinguistic Aspect of Fan and Original Fiction on AO3 Or, How the Writing Process Became Participatory in the Digital Era

In this presentation Atticus will be discussing how the metadata and paratextual structures that accompany digitally archived texts can be indicative of sociolinguistic shifts in the register of digital fiction communities. Atticus will be demonstrating a case-study-in-progress of a corpus of texts published on Archive Of Our Own from 2015-2025, where a clustering model will be separately applied to the metadata, paratext, and text of a sample of stories to quantify the AO3 userbase's definition of 'originality', and how it potentially shifts over time.