

Eli Sharf

Department of Linguistics
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| INTERESTS | semantics, pragmatics, fieldwork, psycholinguistics, computation, information structure, deixis |
| EDUCATION | University of California, Santa Cruz <i>2021 - present</i> <i>Ph.D. Student, Linguistics</i> |
| | Brown University <i>2012 - 2016</i> <i>B.A., Linguistics (with Honors); B.A., Computer Science</i> Thesis: First and Second Person Pronouns in Q'anjob'al (Maya) Advisor: Scott AnderBois |
| | University of California, Berkeley Summer courses in Artificial Intelligence (2015), Logic (2012) |
| PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE | Google <i>August 2018 - July 2021</i> <i>Computational Linguist, Google Assistant NLU</i> Developed semantic representations of user intents and created Natural Language Understanding (NLU) models that map user queries to those representations. |
| | Adecco@Google <i>September 2016 - August 2018</i> <i>Associate Linguist</i> Provided linguistic expertise and high quality training data for machine learning to multiple technical teams across Google's natural language processing projects. |
| PRESENTATIONS | |
| PEER-REVIEWED | Restrictive Modifiers in Parenthetical Positions. <i>January 2024</i> North East Linguistics Society 54. MIT. |
| | Deixis and Restrictive Modification. <i>May 2022</i> California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics Colloquium 13. UCLA. |
| NON-REFEREED | Identificational Appositives. <i>April 2023</i> Linguistics Spring Research Symposium. UC Santa Cruz. |
| | Deixis and Restrictive Modification. <i>April 2022</i> Syntax and Semantics Circle. UC Santa Cruz. |
| | First and Second Person Pronouns in Q'anjob'al (Maya). <i>February 2022</i> Workshop on the Languages of Meso-America. UC Santa Cruz. |
| | First and Second Person Pronouns in Q'anjob'al (Maya). <i>May 2016</i> Public BA Thesis Defense. Brown University. |

PAPERS

Identificational Appositives.*May 2023*

Qualifying Paper #1, UC Santa Cruz.

Investigated a class of prepositional/adverbial modifiers of referring expressions in English. Empirically motivated an analysis of them as appositives that serve as fragment answers to a particular kind of implicit question. Overall project informs our theories of how speakers use referring expressions.

First & Second Person Pronouns in Q'anjob'al (Maya).*May 2016*

BA Thesis, Brown University.

Investigated patterns in the distribution of personal pronouns in Q'anjob'al, a Mayan language; determined four sets of pronouns that are distinguished by morphological, syntactic and semantic criteria; used previous research on focus and topic to create a model of the pronouns' use conditions.

Nirgatasakhiśukavilāpah: The Lament of the Parrot at his Friend's Departure.*April 2015*

Brown Classical Journal, Department of Classics at Brown University.

Original poetry and prose contribution in Sanskrit drawing from the Sanskrit genres of fable literature and courtly love-poetry.

The Voice of Fortunatus: The Medieval Poet's Use of the Elegiac Couplet in Poem 3.18.*April 2014*

Brown Classical Journal, Department of Classics at Brown University.

FIELDWORK

Santiago Laxopa Zapotec (Otomanguean)*Santiago Laxopa, Oaxaca, Mexico**July 2023*

Spent two weeks in the field in Santiago Laxopa, Oaxaca, running an experiment under NSF Grant BCS-2019804, continuing to build relationships, and learning the language. Supervised by Maziar Toosarvandani.

*Santa Cruz, CA**January 2023 - present*

Collaborating with a speaker of Santiago Laxopa Zapotec under the UC Santa Cruz Zapotec Language Project. Supervised by Maziar Toosarvandani.

San Martín Peras Mixtec (Otomanguean)*Watsonville, CA**March 2022 - June 2022*

Worked with a speaker of San Martín Peras Mixtec for a Field Methods course taken at UC Santa Cruz, taught by Ryan Bennett.

Q'anjob'al (Maya)*Providence, RI**February 2015 - June 2016*

Worked with a speaker of Q'anjob'al for over a year. Supervised by Scott AnderBois at Brown University.

RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE**Investigating the dynamics of coordinated questions***May 2023 - August 2023**UC Santa Cruz*

Helped Haoze Li design and create materials for judgment study investigating how coordinated questions are dynamically interpreted, with a focus on anaphora in the second conjunct to dependencies introduced by the first: e.g., 'which boy_i took which course_j and how did he_i do in it_j?'.

Decomposing effects of *focus* on real-time processing *August 2022 - December 2022*
UC Santa Cruz

Joint work with Morwenna Hoeks, supervised by Amanda Rysling & Maziar Toosarvandani. Investigation of real-time processing of *focus* in discourse using the Maze paradigm.

Grounding Language to Points in Space *Spring 2016*
Brown University

Joint work with Edward Williams and Roshan Rao for the course *Grounded Language in Robotics* taught by Stefanie Tellex. Developed algorithms to allow robots to understand how locative expressions map to points in space in their visual field. Ran experiment on humans for gold data.

Sanskrit NLP Research Intern *Summer 2015*
UC Berkeley

Supervised by Alberto Todeschini. Developed and implemented algorithm in Python for Sanskrit word segmentation (sandhi and compound resolution).

Predicting the Existential “there” Construction *Spring 2014*
Brown University

Joint work with Alex Warstadt and Debjani Mitra for the course *Corpus Linguistics* taught by Uriel Cohen-Priva. Created a statistical model in R to predict contexts in which speakers would use the existential construction. Compiled and annotated large dataset from the New York Times corpus.

HONORS AND
AWARDS

Regents Fellowship *2021-2022*
UC Santa Cruz Linguistics Department

Magna Cum Laude *2016*
Brown University
Highest honors.

Sigma Xi *2016*
Brown University

Premium in Linguistics *2016*
Brown University Linguistics Department
Awarded to one senior.

Distinguished Thesis Prize Nomination *2016*
Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences (CLPS) Department, Brown University

Phi Beta Kappa *2015*
Brown University
One of 32 juniors selected.

Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow *Summer 2014*
U.S. Department of Education
Studied Sanskrit at the AIIS Sanskrit Language Intensive in Pune, India.

SERVICE

Co-coordinator, SPLAP! Reading Group *September 2022 - present*
UC Santa Cruz

Co-coordinate weekly reading group on semantics, philosophy of language, and pragmatics.

Graduate Communications Lead

September 2022 - June 2023

UC Santa Cruz

Manage the biweekly department news letter and web-blog, WHASC. Set up Department LinkedIn for Alumni outreach.

Transportation Sub-committee

September 2022 - June 2023

UC Santa Cruz

Manage transportation logistics for UC Santa Cruz Linguistics Department Colloquia.

Linguistics Department Undergraduate Group (DUG) Coordinator

2015-2016

Brown University

Coordinate events serving the entire department as well as its undergraduate body.

TEACHING

Ling 80C: Language, Society, and Culture

Fall 2023

Teaching assistant, UC Santa Cruz Linguistics Department.

Instructor: Jaye Padgett

Ling 171: Psycholinguistics 1

Spring 2023

Teaching assistant, UC Santa Cruz Linguistics Department.

Instructor: Amanda Rysling

Ling 53: Semantics 1

Winter 2023

Teaching assistant, UC Santa Cruz Linguistics Department.

Instructor: Jess Law

Ling 80M: Language and Indigeneity in Mesoamerica

Fall 2022

Teaching assistant, UC Santa Cruz Linguistics Department.

Instructor: Ryan Bennett

SKILLS

Programming Languages:

C++, Python, R, SQL (proficient)

Java, HTML, Javascript (familiar)

Natural Languages:

English (native)

Sanskrit, Latin (reading)

Spanish (intermediate)

Swedish (beginner)

Q'anjob'al, San Martín Peras Mixtec, Santiago Laxopa Zapotec (research)