

Travis Major

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Education

- Present** PhD student in Linguistics
University of California Los Angeles
- 2014** Master of Arts in Linguistics
University of Kansas
Thesis title: *Syntactic Islands in Uyghur*
Thesis committee: Harold Torrence, Jason Kandybowicz, Arienne Dwyer
- 2011** B.A. Linguistics, English
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2011** Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Certificate
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Adult/University Level TESOL Undergraduate Certificate Program

Interests

Syntax, semantics, prosody, Turkic Languages, Ibibio, field linguistics, comparative syntax

Conference Presentations

- 2018** *A challenge for tier-based strict locality from Uyghur backness harmony*
(with Connor Mayer). Formal Grammar. Sofia, Bulgaria.
- Towards a Phonological Model of Uyghur Intonation* (with Connor Mayer). Speech Prosody 9. Poznan Poland.
- Communicative Reception Reports as Hear-sav: Evidence from Indexical Shift in Turkish* (with Deniz Özyildiz and Emar Maier). WCCFL36. Los Angeles, California.

- 2017** *Wh Interrogatives in Ibibio: Movement, Agreement and Complementizers* (with Harold Torrence). The 48th Annual Conference of African Linguistics. Bloomington, Indiana.
- The role of logophoricity in Turkic Anaphora* (with Sözen Ozkan). The 91st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Austin, TX.
- 2016** *Anaphora in two Turkic languages: Condition A is not enough* (with Sözen Ozkan). Turkish, Turkic, and Languages of Turkey 2. Bloomington, Indiana.
- Serial Verb Constructions in Ibibio*. The 47th Annual Conference of African Linguistics. Berkeley, CA.
- Verb and Predicate Coordination in Ibibio* (With Phillip Duncan and Mfon Udoinyang). The 47th Annual Conference of African Linguistics. Berkeley, CA.
- 2015** *Uyghur Contrastive Polarity Questions: A case of verb-stranding “TP-ellipsis”*. Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics 12; New Britain, CT.
- An ERP investigation of the role of prediction and individual differences in semantic priming* (With L. Covey, C. Coughlin, A. Johnson, X. Yang, C. Siew, and R. Fiorentino). The 7th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language; Chicago, IL.
- 2014** *Reference to situation content in Uyghur auxiliary bolmak* (With Andrew McKenzie and Gülnar Eziz). The 41st Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society; Berkeley, CA.
- The effects of prosody on conjunct agreement in Uyghur*. (With Gülnar Eziz). The 89th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America; Portland, OR.
- A-not-A Questions in Uyghur: Ellipsis After All*. (With Mahire Yakup). The 89th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America; Portland, OR.
- Searching High and Low for Focus in Ibibio*. (With Philip Duncan and Mfon Udoinyang). The 89th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America; Portland, OR.

2013 *Causatives in Cocuilotlatzala Mixtec*. The 6th Annual Oklahoma Workshop on Native American Languages; Tahlequah, OK.

The Development of Complex Predication in Turkic: Uyghur Light Verbs. (With Arienne Dwyer and Gülnar Eziz). The 87th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America; Boston, MA.

How to Make Things Happen in Cocuilotlatzala Mixtec. The 87th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America; Boston, MA

Papers

To Appear Communicative Reception Reports as Hear-say: Evidence from Indexical Shift in Turkish (with Deniz Özyildiz and Emar Maier). *Proceedings of West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 36*. UCLA, California.

2018 A challenge for tier-based strict locality from Uyghur backness harmony (with Connor Mayer). *Proceedings of Formal Grammar 2018*. Sofia, Bulgaria.

Towards a Phonological Model of Uyghur Intonation (with Connor Mayer). *Proceedings of Speech Prosody 9*. Poznan Poland.

Latent homomorphism and content satisfaction: The double life of Turkic auxiliary *-(I)p bol-*, (with Andrew McKenzie and Gülnar Eziz) in *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*(3)1, 47.

2017 Uyghur Contrastive Polarity Questions: A case of verb-stranding “TP-ellipsis”. *Proceedings of the Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics 12*; New Britain, CT.

Verb and Predicate Coordination in Ibibio (With Phillip Duncan and Mfon Udoinyang). *The Proceedings of the 47th Annual Conference of African Linguistics*. Berkeley, CA.

2016 The Morphosyntax of Verb Focus in Ibibio. *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Conference of African Linguistics*.

2015 Anaphora in Two Turkic Languages: Condition A is not Enough (With Sözen Özkan). *The Proceedings of 2nd meeting of Turkish, Turkic, and the Languages of Turkey*

- 2014** Reference to situation content in Uyghur auxiliary bolmaq. (With Andrew McKenzie and Gülnar Eziz). *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*; Berkeley, CA.
- Serial Verb constructions in Ibibio. *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics*, 35.
- Syntactic Islands in Uyghur*. M.A. thesis, University of Kansas.

Awards

- 2017-18** Harry and Yvonne Lenart Travel Fellowship, UCLA.
- 2017** Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA.
- 2016-2017** Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA.
- 2016** Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA.
- 2011** Foreign Language Areas Study Grant for the Central Eurasian Summer Studies Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Academic Employment

- Summer 2018-Sumer 2019** Graduate Research Assistant (NSF: EAGER: Training and Text Collection as a Vehicle for Recruiting and Retaining Endangered Language Fieldworkers). With Harold Torrence and Jason Kandybowicz.
- Spring 2018** Graduate Research Assistant (Developing a new online Introductory Linguistics). With Harold Torrence.
- Winter 2018** Graduate Teaching Assistant (UCLA: Ling 210 – Introductory Linguistics). With Bruce Hayes.
- Fall 2017** Graduate Teaching Assistant (UCLA: Ling 127 – Syntactic Typology). With Timothy Stowell.
- Graduate Research Assistant (Developing online Ling 1). With Harold Torrence.
- Summer 2017** Undergraduate Field Methods (UCLA: Ling 160). Co-instructor with Margit Bowler.
- Summer 2016** Undergraduate Field Methods (UCLA: Ling 160). Co-instructor with Margit Bowler.
- Spring 2016** Graduate Teaching Assistant (UCLA: Ling 1).

- 2015** Graduate Research Assistant (PI Harold Torrence).
- Summer 2015** Introductory Linguistics (UCLA: Ling 20). Instructor.
- 2014-2015** Introductory Linguistics (University of Kansas: Ling 106). Graduate Teaching Assistant.
- 2011-2014** Graduate Research Assistant (PI Arienne Dwyer), National Science Foundation Grant: *Uyghur Light Verbs*; University of Kansas.
- 2010** Assistant Teacher at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Intensive English Program.
- 2010** Teacher at the Milwaukee Council for the Spanish Speaking.
- 2009** Tutor at Literacy Services of Wisconsin.

Service

- 2018** Organizer of West Coast Conference of Formal Linguistics 36 at UCLA.
- 2016** Graduate Linguistics Circle, Vice President. UCLA.
- 2015** Co-editor for *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Conference of African Linguistics*.
- 2013-2014** Linguistics Graduate Student Association, President. University of Kansas.
- 2013-2014** Annual Conference on African Linguistics Student Organizer.
- 2012-2013** Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition North America Student Organizer.
- 2012-2013** Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty. University of Kansas, Department of Linguistics.
- 2012** Collaborative Language Research Institute Student Organizer.

Additional Academic Experience

- 2018** Fieldwork in Volta Region, Ghana.
Fieldwork in Tatarstan, Russia.
Fieldwork in Kazakhstan.
- 2016** Field work in Uyo, Nigeria.
- 2012** Collaborative Language Research Summer Institute; University of Kansas.
- 2011** Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute: Uyghur Language Program;
University of Wisconsin Madison.
- 2010** Syntax Fest; Indiana University.

Languages Spoken

English (native)
Spanish - Intermediate
Uyghur - Intermediate
Russian - Intermediate

Research Languages

Uyghur
Kazan Tatar
Turkish
Kazakh
Ibibio (and related languages)
Avatime