Ashraf Khamis

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Permit: Red-White-Red Card plus

WORK EXPERIENCE

Technical Writer (Sep 2016 – Present)
OMICRON electronics (Klaus, Austria)
- Create, edit, and maintain comprehensive user manuals and online help systems for power system testing equipment
- Collaborate with software and hardware developers and product managers to gather information
- Analyze requirements and determine the information depth and publications needed by customers
- Recommend and implement improvements to the user interface text
- Adopt a translation-oriented authoring approach by using a translation memory system and a terminology database
- Plan, coordinate, and supervise outsourced documentation and translation projects

Project Researcher (Oct 2014 – Sep 2016)
Dept. of Applied Linguistics, Translation and Interpreting, Saarland University (Saarbrücken, Germany)
- Examined the role of information density in the evolution of English scientific writing
- Compiled a diachronic corpus of scientific English covering the period 1665–1869
- Trained and evaluated computational models to normalize historical spelling variation
- Presented ongoing research and interim results at international conferences and workshops
- Maintained wiki-based documentation for literature reviews and software applications

Visiting Researcher (Feb 2016 – Apr 2016)
Fun*Cog, Dept. of English and American Studies, University of Vienna (Vienna, Austria)
- Analyzed the frequency distribution and information content of modification patterns in the English noun phrase
- Reported on the findings in writing and in a poster session

Research Intern (Feb 2014 – Jun 2014)
Quantitative Lexicology and Variational Linguistics, Dept. of Linguistics, KU Leuven (Leuven, Belgium)
- Collected, annotated, analyzed, and interpreted corpus data on cross-dialectal variation in English verb complementation
- Integrated findings into a theoretical-descriptive report and a data-based paper

Freelance Copywriter and Editor (Feb 2008 – Apr 2012)
Upwork (Formerly oDesk) (Online Work Platform)
- Created business website content and managed news aggregation websites
- Researched and wrote B2B case studies, white papers, and SEO articles
- Edited and proofread technical reports, training manuals, and business and legal books
- Translated between English and Arabic when and as needed

Customer Service Advisor and Shift Supervisor (Apr 2007 – Jun 2008)
Book Depository and Elkotob.com (Alexandria, Egypt)
- Received, managed, and processed customer orders and answered general queries
- Liaised with other departments and suppliers to improve customer experience
- Trained and supervised four customer service personnel

EDUCATION

MAS, Cognitive and Functional Linguistics (Sep 2013 – Sep 2014)
KU Leuven, Ghent University, Vrije Universiteit Brussel & University of Antwerp (Belgium)
- Grade: magna cum laude
- Thesis: *Further and Farther: Competition or Functional Differentiation?*
MA, English Linguistics and Literature (Sep 2012 – Sep 2013)
KU Leuven (Leuven, Belgium)
- Grade: magna cum laude
- Thesis: *Nominal and Verbal Gerunds with Genitive Subjects in Present-Day English: A Comparative Corpus Study*
BA & Ed, English (Sep 2002 – May 2006)
Alexandria University (Alexandria, Egypt)
- Grade: good

HONORS & AWARDS

- "GradUS global" grant for research visits abroad (Saarland University, Feb 2016 – Mar 2016)
- Roger Dillemans Scholarship for academic excellence (KU Leuven, Oct 2013 – Jul 2014)
- First-in-class honors (KU Leuven, Sep 2013)
- Second-in-class honors (Alexandria University, May 2006)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- B1: *Information Density and Scientific Literacy in English – Synchronic and Diachronic Perspectives*, SFB 1102 (Saarland University, Oct 2014 – Sep 2016)
- *Exploring probabilistic grammar(s) in varieties of English around the world* (KU Leuven, Feb 2014 – Jun 2014)

PUBLICATIONS

Papers in Conference Proceedings

- Degaetano-Ortlieb, Stefania, Hannah Kermes, Ashraf Khamis & Elke Teich. To appear. An information-theoretic approach to modeling diachronic change in scientific English. In Carla Suhr et al. (eds.), *Selected Papers from Varieng – From Data to Evidence (d2e)*. University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland. Leiden: Brill.
- Degaetano-Ortlieb, Stefania, Hannah Kermes, Ashraf Khamis, Jörg Knappen & Elke Teich. 2016. The Royal Society Corpus: From Uncharted Data to Corpus. In Nicoletta Calzolari et al. (eds.), *The Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC) 2016 Proceedings*, 1928–1931. Grand Hotel Bernardin Conference Center, Portorož, Slovenia.

Conference Abstracts & Presentations

- Kermes, Hannah, Stefania Degaetano-Ortlieb, Ashraf Khamis, Jörg Knappen & Elke Teich. 2016. The Royal Society Corpus: Towards a high-quality corpus for studying diachronic variation in scientific writing. *Digital Humanities (DH)*, Jul 11–16, 2016. Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland.
- Degaetano-Ortlieb, Stefania, Hannah Kermes, Ashraf Khamis, Noam Ordan & Elke Teich. 2015. The taming of the data: Using text mining in building a corpus for diachronic analysis. *From Data to Evidence (d2e)*, Oct 19–22, 2015. University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland.
- Degaetano-Ortlieb, Stefania, Hannah Kermes, Ashraf Khamis, Jörg Knappen, Noam Ordan & Elke Teich. 2015. Information Density in Scientific Writing: A Diachronic Perspective. *The 42nd International Systemic Functional Congress (ISFC)*, Jul 27–31, 2015. RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany.
- Khamis, Ashraf, Stefania Degaetano-Ortlieb, Hannah Kermes, Jörg Knappen, Noam Ordan & Elke Teich. 2015. A resource for the diachronic study of scientific English: Introducing the Royal Society Corpus. *The 8th International Corpus Linguistics Conference (CL)*, Jul 21–24, 2015. Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK.
- Khamis, Ashraf. 2015. Cross-dialectal variation in English verb complementation: A multivariate corpus analysis. *The 13th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference (ICLC)*, Jul 20–25, 2015. Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.
- Degaetano-Ortlieb, Stefania, Hannah Kermes, Ashraf Khamis & Elke Teich. 2015. Information Density in Scientific Writing: Exploring the SciTex Corpus. *Academic Corpora: Development, Exploration and Application*, Jul 20, 2015. Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK.

LANGUAGES

- Arabic: native
- English: fluent (near-native)
- German: intermediate
- French: elementary

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Web standards: HTML, CSS
- XML/text editors: XMetaL Author, Notepad++
- Document/word processors: Adobe FrameMaker, Microsoft Word
- Spreadsheet/presentation/desktop publishing: Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher
- Image capture: SnagIt, IrfanView
- Version control: GitHub, Team Foundation Server
- Translation management: SDL WorldServer, in-house software
- Content management: WordPress, Joomla, Drupal, TYPO3
- Web analytics: Google Analytics, WordPress Stats