Mikey Elmers

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SUMMARY

Data analyst with years of experience in experimental design, data collection, statistical analyses, coding, and data visualization. Proficient in SQL, R, and Python. Native English speaker skilled in effectively communicating complex insights to stakeholders, both technical and non-technical.

EXPERIENCE

Saarland University — Saarbrücken, Germany
Researcher — 2020–Present

- Co-Researcher, *Pause-Internal Phonetic Particles* project (PhD Researcher).
- Conducted research on speech synthesis, specifically focusing on the behavior of phonetic particles within speech pauses.
- Investigated and modeled human pausing structure to generate natural and expressive speech synthesis using Python.
- Evaluated recall effects of speech pauses in speech synthesis with native and non-native listeners.
- Implemented experimental design, collected data, performed statistical analyses, and utilized coding skills for data visualization with R and markdown reports.
- Shared knowledge and findings by writing technical publications with LaTeX and presenting at conferences.
- Developed materials and taught exercise sections for Speech Science course at the master's level, providing instruction and guidance to students.
- Advocated and implemented reproducible research practices to ensure the integrity and transparency of findings with Git for version control and GitHub for hosting repositories.

GABA — Tokyo, Japan
English Instructor — 2018–2020

- Customized lesson plans to meet the unique needs of learners, ranging from complete beginners to business professionals.
- Successfully delivered over 1900 one-on-one lessons, fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment.
- Employed effective communication and interpersonal skills to establish rapport with students and facilitate their language development.

EDUCATION

Saarland University — Saarbrücken, Germany
Ph.D. in Language Science and Technology — 2020–Present

- Area of Study: Language Modeling and Speech Synthesis
- Advisor: Bernd Möbius

Waseda University — Tokyo, Japan
M.A. in International Culture and Communication Studies — 2018–2020

- Thesis: "Comparing Phonetic Parameters within Comprehensibility: A Perceptual Judgment Study of Japanese-Accented English by different L1 backgrounds"

- Area of Study: Speech Communication and Language Acquisition
- Advisor: Mariko Kondo

University of Minnesota   Minneapolis, USA
B.A. in Linguistics

- Thesis: "A Comprehensive Analysis of Rendaku"
- Advisor: Brian Reese

Publications

[1] **Mikey Elmers**, J. O'Mahony, and É. Székely, "Synthesis after a couple PINTs: Investigating the role of pause-internal phonetic particles in speech synthesis and perception", in *submitted to: Interspeech*, Dublin, Ireland, 2023.

[2] **Mikey Elmers**, "Pause particles influencing recollection in lectures", in *Proc. ICPhS*, Prague, Czech Republic, 2023.

[3] **Mikey Elmers**, "Comparing detection methods for pause-internal particles", in *Studientexte zur Sprachkommunikation: Elektronische Sprachsignalverarbeitung 2022*, O. Niebuhr, M. S. Lundmark, and H. Weston, Eds., TUDpress, Dresden, 2022, pp. 204–211, ISBN: 978-3-95908-548-9.

[4] **Elmers, M.**, R. Werner, B. Muhlack, B. Möbius, and J. Trouvain, "Take a Breath: Respiratory Sounds Improve Recollection in Synthetic Speech", in *Proc. Interspeech 2021*, 2021, pp. 3196–3200.

[5] B. Muhlack, **Elmers, M.**, H. Drenhaus, J. Trouvain, M. van Os, R. Werner, M. Ryzhova, and B. Möbius, "Revisiting Recall Effects of Filler Particles in German and English", in *Proc. Interspeech 2021*, 2021, pp. 3979–3983.

[6] **Elmers, M.**, R. Werner, B. Muhlack, B. Möbius, and J. Trouvain, "Evaluating the effect of pauses on number recollection in synthesized speech", in *Elektronische Sprachsignalverarbeitung 2021, Tagungsband der 32. Konferenz*, ser. Studientexte zur Sprachkommunikation, Berlin: TUD Press, 2021, pp. 289–295.

Skills

- **Technical Skills:** R, SQL, Python, Git, Praat, LaTeX, Microsoft, Linux
- **Research Skills:** Machine Learning, Statistics, Research Methods
- **Certification:** Data Analyst in SQL, DataCamp

Languages

- **English:** Native
- **Japanese:** Beginner

Scholarships and Awards

- Azusa Ono Memorial Scholarship, Waseda University   2018
- Foreign Language and Area Studies(FLAS) Scholarship, University of Minnesota   2017