Anshun Asher Zheng

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Education

Degree Program

University of Texas at Austin   **Austin, Texas**
Ph.D. student in Linguistics   *08/2024 – Present*

- Advisors: Junyi Jessy Li, David I. Beaver

University of Edinburgh   **Edinburgh, Scotland**
Master of Science in Speech and Language Processing   *09/2022 – 08/2023*

- Dissertation:
  Anticipating the Future: Forward-Looking Discourse Based on Question Under Discussion (QUD)
- Supervisor: Catherine Lai
- First Class *with distinction*

Hanyang University   **Seoul, South Korea**
Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature   *09/2020 – 08/2022*

- Advisor: Ki Jeong Lee
- GPA: 3.96/4.0, 99.5/100
- *summa cum laude* honors

Non-Degree Program

2024   The 8th NYI Global Institute of Cultural, Cognitive, and Linguistic Studies

2023   The 7th NYI Global Institute of Cultural, Cognitive, and Linguistic Studies

2021   Summer School in Languages and Linguistics, Leiden University

           32nd European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information

           Eastern Generative Grammar Summer School

Research Interests

Broad   Semantics, Pragmatics, Computational Linguistics

Narrow   Questions (QUD, Biased Questions), Non-cooperative Discourse, LLM Pragmatics

Languages   Mandarin, English, Korean

Publications

DISSERTATIONS

1. **Anshun, Zheng**. 2023. Anticipating the Future: Forward-Looking Discourse Based on Question Under Discussion (QUD), M.Sc. Thesis, *University of Edinburgh* , Edinburgh, Scotland. (*Distinction*)

JOURNALS

2. **Anshun Asher, Zheng**, Junyi Jessy Li, David I., Beaver. CoBRA: Quantifying Strategic Language and LLM Pragmatics, (*under review*), *Dialogue and Discourse*

PROCEEDINGS

3. Ramya Namuduri, Yating Wu, **Anshun Asher, Zheng**, Manya Wadhwa, Greg Durrett and Junyi Jessy Li. QUDsim: Quantifying Discourse Similarities in LLM-Generated Text, (*to appear*), *In Proceedings of the 2nd Conference on Language Modeling, (COLM 2025)*

4. **Anshun Asher, Zheng**. *Nandao*-Qs: When Surprise Sparks Inquiry, (*to appear*). *In Proceedings of the the 43rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 43)*

5. **Anshun, Zheng**. CP Selection at the Syntax-Semantics Interface: A Case Study in Mandarin *think* "*xiang*", 2024, *In Proceedings of the 23rd Meeting of the Texas Linguistics Society, TLS2024*

6. **Anshun, Zheng**. Dynamic Questions: Evidence from Mandarin Think–"Xiang", 2023, *In Proceedings of the 4th Workshop on Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary (InqBnB4), IWCS2023*, pages 40-49, Nancy, France. Association for Computational Linguistics.

PRESENTATIONS

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2023   **Anshun, Zheng**. Dynamic Questions: Evidence from Mandarin Think–"Xiang", 2023, *The 4th Workshop on Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary (InqBnB4), IWCS2023*, Université de Lorraine, June 20.

ABSTRACTS/POSTERS

2025   **Anshun, Zheng**. *Nandao*-Qs: When Surprise Sparks Inquiry, 2025. Submitted to *the 43rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 43)*

2024   **Anshun, Zheng**. Anticipating the Future: Forward-Looking Discourse Based on Question Under Discussion (QUD), 2024. Submitted to *the 48th Penn Linguistics Conference* (Accepted)

2024   **Anshun, Zheng**. CP Selection at the Syntax-Semantics Interface: A Case Study in Mandarin *think* "xiang", 2023. Poster presentation at the *Texas Linguistics Society 2024* (TLS2024), The University of Texas at Austin, February 23.

2023   **Anshun, Zheng**. CP Selection at the Syntax-Semantics Interface: A Case Study in Mandarin *think* "xiang", 2023. Poster presentation at the 2023 LSK Young Scholar Symposium, Korea University, December 8.

EXPERIENCE

At University of Texas at Austin

Graduate Research Assistant (PI: Junyi Jessy Li and David Beaver)   2024-present

△ Develop operationalizable evaluation methods grounded in Gricean and game-theoretic pragmatics to assess LLMs' pragmatic ability to recognize non-cooperative language.

△ Examine the discourse templaticness in LLM generated texts using discourse-semantic theories like Question Under Discussion (QUD) and alternative semantics.

△ Explore and extend the understanding of discourse coherence and parsing using QUD.

Honors & Awards

UT Professional Development Award ($ 1208)   2025

Hanyang International Excellence Awards (HIEA) (≈$12000), Hanyang University.   2021 − 2022

TOPIK Scholarship (≈$400), Hanyang University.   2020

Hanyang International Scholarship Program (HISP) (≈$1500), Hanyang University.   2020

The University Scholarship, Zhejiang Normal University (≈$300).   2018 − 2020

Outstanding Student Leader, Zhejiang Normal University.   2018 − 2020.

Services

Reviewing

Journal of Linguistics, ACL2025

Memberships

Member of Associated Students of Linguistics (ASOL) at UT Austin   2024 − Present

Member of Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW)   2023 − Present

Member of The Association for Logic, Language and Information   2021 − Present

Member of UoE Meaning and Grammar Research Group (MGRG)   2022 − 2023

Languages & Computing Skills

Natural	Mandarin, Chinese Wu (Native), English, Korean, Archaic Chinese (Advanced), Japanese, French (Intermediate), Thai, Latin (Elementary).
Programming	Python, JavaScript, R, LaTeX, Praat, Html, SQLite.
Frameworks and Packages	PyTorch, TensorFlow, Scikit-Learn, Numpy, Pandas, Nltk, SpacCy, CHILDES, Penn Treebanks, JsPsych.

REFERENCES

David.I.Beaver, Professor, University of Texas at Austin, dib@utexas.edu

Junyi Jessy Li, Associate Professor, University of Texas at Austin, jessy@utexas.edu

Catherine Lai, Lecturer, University of Edinburgh, c.lai@ed.ac.uk

Kajsa Djärv, Lecturer, University of Edinburgh, k.djarv@ed.ac.uk

Taehong Cho, Professor, Hanyang University, tcho@hanyang.ac.kr

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