

# Dipankar Srirag

## PhD Candidate, UNSW Sydney

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## Education

<b>Present</b> <b>Jun 2025</b>	<b>University of New South Wales</b> Ph.D., Computer Science and Engineering • Advisor(s) : Dr. Aditya Joshi, Dr. Padmanesan Narasimhan, Dr. Salil Kanhere. • Funded by NHMRC Ideas Grant.	<b>Sydney, Australia</b>
<b>Sep 2024</b> <b>Sep 2022</b>	<b>University of New South Wales</b> M.S., Information Technology, WAM : 81.3. <a href="#"></a> • Advisor : Dr. Aditya Joshi. • Thesis : Training Dialect Adapters for Decoder Models Using Natural Conversations. <a href="#"></a>	<b>Sydney, Australia</b>
<b>Aug 2022</b> <b>Jul 2018</b>	<b>Manipal Institute of Technology</b> B.Tech., Information Technology, GPA : 8.38. <a href="#"></a> • Minor : Data Analytics • Relevant Courses : Data Structures and Algorithms, Probability Theory, Linear Algebra, Vector Calculus, Machine Learning.	<b>Manipal, India</b>

## Experience

<b>May 2025</b> <b>May 2024</b>	<b>University of New South Wales</b> Researcher/Research Officer • Built the BESSTIE benchmark, a novel dataset spanning sentiment and sarcasm classification across 3 English dialects. This work is funded by Google Research Scholar grant. • Designed and implemented scalable annotation pipelines to collect and validate 12,600 samples from Reddit and Google Places, covering diverse dialects for NLP evaluation. • Evaluated two open-weight LLMs (Gemma, Llama) for dialect robustness using sarcasm explanation generation, with statistically significant improvements using a pragmatic reasoning-based prompting strategy. • Audited GPT-based models for translation of school communication across 22 languages, using performance metrics such as BLEU, chrF, and ROUGE. • Mentored undergraduate students through the UNSW Taste of Research program, guiding them in literature reviews, controlled experimentation, and research writing. • Presented work at the UNSW AI Symposium 2024, showcasing practical contributions of dialect-aware LLM evaluations.	<b>Sydney, Australia</b>
<b>Jun 2022</b> <b>Jan 2022</b>	<b>Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu</b> Analyst Intern • Automated invoice processing with 100% accuracy using BluePrism bots, improving operational efficiency for client-facing systems. • Trained in enterprise-grade automation tools such as Automation Anywhere and UiPath, delivering proof-of-concepts for internal testing.	<b>Bengaluru, India</b>





## Teaching

<b>Casual Academic, Data Structures and Algorithms</b> UNSW Sydney	Sept 2025 - Present
• Class Size : 40 students. Feedback : 100% broad agreement.	
<b>Casual Academic, Neural Networks and Deep Learning</b> UNSW Sydney	May 2024 - Aug 2025
• Class Size : 50+ students. Feedback : 98.5% broad agreement.	

## Publications and Submissions


S=Submission, C=Conference, W=Workshop/Whitepaper

<b>[S.1]</b>	<b>A Taxonomy-Driven Case Study of Australian Web Resources Against Technology-Facilitated Abuse.</b> <a href="#"></a> Dipankar Srirag, Xiaolin Cen, Rahat Masood, Aditya Joshi. <b>[Under Review]</b>
<b>[W.3]</b>	<b>Nek Minit : Harnessing Pragmatic Metacognitive Prompting for Explainable Sarcasm Detection of Australian and Indian English.</b> <a href="#"></a> Dipankar Srirag*, Ishmanbir Singh*, Aditya Joshi. ( <i>Best Paper Honorable Mention</i> ) <i>Proceedings of the 23rd Annual Workshop of the Australasian Language Technology Association.</i>

- [W.2] **Evaluation of translation ability of language models for education-related communication**   
Dipankar Srirag, Aditya Joshi, Caroline Thompsett, Dan Hart.
- [C.2] **BESSTIE : A Benchmark for Sentiment and Sarcasm Classification for Varieties of English.**   
Dipankar Srirag, Aditya Joshi, Jordan Painter, Diptesh Kanojia.  
*Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics : ACL 2025.* [CORE : A\*]
- [C.1] **Predicting the Target Word of Game-playing Conversations using a Low-Rank Dialect Adapter for Decoder Models.**   
Dipankar Srirag, Aditya Joshi, Jacob Eisenstein.  
*2025 Conference of the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics.* [CORE : A]
- [W.1] **Evaluating Dialect Robustness of Language Models via Conversation Understanding.**   
Dipankar Srirag, Nihar Ranjan Sahoo, Aditya Joshi.  
*Second Workshop on Scaling Up Multilingual & Multi-Cultural Evaluation, COLING 2025.*

## Presentations

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**NAACL 2025, Albuquerque, USA** *Main Conference* May 2025  
Presented our paper titled, “Predicting the Target Word of Game-playing Conversations using a Low-Rank Dialect Adapter for Decoder Models.” 

**SUMEval Workshop at COLING 2025, Abu Dhabi, UAE** *Workshop* Jan 2025  
Presented our paper titled, “Evaluating Dialect Robustness of Language Models via Conversation Understanding.”

**AI Symposium 2025 at UNSW, Sydney, Australia** *Symposium* Nov 2024  
Presented “BESSTIE : A Benchmark for Sentiment and Sarcasm Classification for Varieties of English”, to an audience of academia and industry attendees.

## Projects

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**Comparative Analysis of Static vs. Context-aware Embeddings for Abstractive Summarisation**  Sep 2023  
Implemented a transformer model with encoder-decoder architecture and static embeddings, for abstractive dialogue summarisation. Highlighted the effectiveness of context-aware embeddings in dialogue summarisation, by fine-tuning BART-base, and FLAN-T5 models.

## Awards and Achievements

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- **Google Travel Award** : Unrestricted travel grant valued at **AUD 2500**.
- **UNSW TFS Scholarship** : Full tuition fee waiver with annual stipend of **AUD 42000**.
- **UNSW Award of Excellence** : Recognised for academic distinction during master’s program.

## Academic Service

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**Program Committee Member** C3NLP Workshop 2025, Queer in AI Workshop 2025.  
**Peer Reviewer** ACL Rolling Review (ARR), The Web Conference (WWW) 2025.

## References

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