Kenneth Hanson

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Education

2020–Present **PhD in Linguistics**
Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY

- Dissertation: The Subregular Complexity of Case and Agreement
- Expected graduation: August 2025

2011–2014 **BA in Linguistics**
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

- Thesis: The Loss of Bare Singular Noun Phrases in the History of English
- Additional Major in Japanese. Minor in Computer Science. Cumulative GPA: 4.0.

Research interests

- **Generative syntax:** locality, case, agreement, typological variation
- **Computational linguistics:** subregular complexity, formal grammar, computational learning theory
- **Japanese linguistics:** syntax of case, verbal morphology

Publications

Journal Articles

1. **Kenneth Hanson** (2025). Tier-Based Strict Locality and the Typology of Agreement. *Journal of Language Modelling* 13.1, pp. 43–97.

Paper-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

7. Thomas Graf and **Kenneth Hanson** (to appear). Syntax with strings attached. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL) 2025*.

6. **Kenneth Hanson** (to appear). Adjunction in (T)SL Syntax. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL) 2025*.

5. Logan Swanson, **Kenneth Hanson,** and Thomas Graf (to appear). Are syntactic categories ISL-2 inferrable? A corpus study. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL) 2025*.

4. **Kenneth Hanson** (2024). Tiers, Paths, and Syntactic Locality: The View from Learning. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL) 2024*. Ed. by Richard Futrell, Connor Mayer, and Noga Zaslavsky. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries, pp. 107–116.

3. **Kenneth Hanson** (2023). A TSL Analysis of Japanese Case. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL) 2023*. Ed. by Tim Hunter and Brandon Prickett. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries, pp. 15–24.

2. Charles Torres, **Kenneth Hanson,** Thomas Graf, and Connor Mayer (2023). Modeling island effects with probabilistic tier-based strictly local grammars over trees. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL) 2023*. Ed. by Tim Hunter and Brandon Prickett. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries, pp. 155–164.

1. Joyce Y. Chai, Lanbo She, Rui Fang, Spencer Ottarson, Cody Littley, Changsong Liu, and **Kenneth Hanson** (2014). Collaborative Effort towards Common Ground in Situated Human-Robot Dialogue. *Proceedings of the 9th ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI 2014)*. New York, NY: Association for Computing Machinery, pp. 33–40.

Abstract-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

3. **Kenneth Hanson** (to appear). Upward Agreement and Syntactic Counterfeeding in Lubukusu. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America.* 2025 Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society for America (LSA 2025). Lexington, KY: Linguistic Society of America.

2. **Kenneth Hanson** (to appear). A Tier-Based Model of Syntactic Agreement. *Proceedings of CLS 60.* Chicago, IL: The Chicago Linguistic Society.

1. **Kenneth Hanson** (2024). Strict Locality in Syntax. *Proceedings of CLS 59.* Ed. by Kutay Serova and M. K. Snigaroff. Chicago, IL: The Chicago Linguistic Society, pp. 131–145.

Other Manuscripts

1. **Kenneth Hanson** (under review). "The Typology of TSL Case Assignment". Ms. Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY.

Presentations

Invited Talks

3. **Kenneth Hanson** (2025). *What We Can Learn by Studying Computational Complexity.* Invited talk, College of Staten Island, Apr. 21.

2. **Kenneth Hanson** (2025). *On the Computational Complexity of Syntactic Dependencies.* Invited talk, Queen Mary University of London, Feb. 27.

1. **Kenneth Hanson** (2023). *A Computational Perspective on the Typology of Agreement.* Invited talk. NYU Linguistics Brown Bag, New York University, New York, NY, Sept. 29.

Refereed Conference Presentations

17. Thomas Graf and **Kenneth Hanson** (2025). *Syntax with strings attached.* Poster presentation. SCiL 2025, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, July 18–20.

16. **Kenneth Hanson** (2025). *Adjunction in (T)SL Syntax.* Oral presentation. SCiL 2025, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, July 18–20.

15. Logan Swanson, **Kenneth Hanson**, and Thomas Graf (2025). *Are syntactic categories ISL-2 inferrable? A corpus study.* Oral presentation. SCiL 2025, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, July 18–20.

14. **Kenneth Hanson** (2025). *Two Steps to Parasitic Agreement in Hindi-Urdu.* Poster presentation. PLC 49, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, Apr. 5–6.

13. **Kenneth Hanson** (2025). *Upward Agreement and Syntactic Counterfeeding in Lubukusu.* Poster presentation. 99th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Philadelphia, PA, Jan. 9–12.

12. **Kenneth Hanson** (2024). *A Tier-Based Analysis of Parasitic Agreement in Hindi-Urdu.* Oral presentation. SYNC 2024, New York University, New York, NY, Dec. 7.

11. **Kenneth Hanson** (2024). *Tiers, Paths, and Syntactic Locality: The View from Learning.* Poster presentation. SCiL 2024, University of California Irvine, Irvine, CA, June 27–29.

10. **Kenneth Hanson** (2024). *The computational basis of locality in syntactic agreement.* Oral presentation. Workshop on Myopia in Grammar, Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany, June 13–14.

9. **Kenneth Hanson** (2024). *A Tier-Based Model of Syntactic Agreement.* Oral presentation. CLS 60, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, Apr. 26–28.

8. **Kenneth Hanson** (2023). *Case Domains in Japanese.* Oral presentation. SYNC 2023, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, Dec. 2.

7. **Kenneth Hanson** (2023). *A TSL Analysis of Japanese Case.* Poster presentation. SCiL 2023, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA, June 15–17.

6. Charles Torres, **Kenneth Hanson**, Thomas Graf, and Connor Mayer (2023). *Modeling island effects with probabilistic tier-based strictly local grammars over trees.* Oral presentation. SCiL 2023, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA, June 15–17.

5. **Kenneth Hanson** (2023). *Strict Locality in Syntax*. Oral presentation. CLS 59, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, Apr. 28–30.

4. **Kenneth Hanson** (2023). *Strict Locality in Syntax*. Oral presentation. SYNC 23, Yale University, New Haven, CT, Mar. 4.

3. **Kenneth Hanson** (2021). *Allomorph selection in the Japanese verb paradigm*. Oral presentation. SYNC 22, online, Dec. 4. Hosted by CUNY, New York, NY.

2. **Kenneth Hanson**, Cristina Schmitt, and Alan Munn (2014). *The loss of bare singular arguments and predicates in the history of English*. Poster presentation. 16th Diachronic Generative Syntax Conference (DiGS 16), Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary, July 3–5.

1. **Kenneth Hanson**, Cristina Schmitt, and Alan Munn (2014). *The loss of bare singular noun phrases in the history of English*. Oral presentation. Great Lakes Expo for Experimental and Formal Undergraduate Linguistics (GLEEFUL) 2014, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, Apr. 12.

Other Presentations

4. **Kenneth Hanson** (2014). *Methods for tracking lexical classes in parsed historical corpora*. Poster presentation. Michigan State Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (MSULC) 2014, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, Apr. 11.

3. **Kenneth Hanson** (2014). *Quantitative methods for the analysis of Classical Japanese poetry*. Oral presentation. Michigan State Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (MSULC) 2014, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, Apr. 11.

2. **Kenneth Hanson** (2013). *CorpusExtract: A tool for analyzing syntactically annotated corpora*. Poster presentation. Michigan State Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (MSULC) 2013, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, Apr. 5.

1. **Kenneth Hanson** (2012). *Playing a naming game with Darwin: Towards human-robot dialog*. Oral presentation. Summer Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF), Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, July 24.

Teaching Experience

University Teaching

2023	**Instructor**
	Stony Brook University

- Computational Seminar (LIN 655). Topic: Doing Subregular Linguistics. Co-taught with Thomas Graf. Fall 2023.

2020–2023	**Graduate Teaching Assistant**
	Stony Brook University

- Syntax (LIN 311). Supervisor: Andrei Antonenko. Spring 2023.
- English Grammar (LIN 320). Supervisor: Alex Hong-Lun Yeung. Summer 2021.
- Human Language (LIN 101). Supervisor: Mark Aronoff. Spring 2021.
- Language and Technology (LIN 120). Supervisor: Kalina Kostyszyn. Fall 2020.

2012–2013	**Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**
	Michigan State University

- Intro to Programming II (CSE 232). Supervisor: Mark McCullen. Sp. 2012, Fa. 2012, Sp. 2013.

Professional Teaching Experience

2014–2018	**Assistant English Teacher**
	Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme

- Taught EFL for grades 1–9 in several Japanese public schools.

Mentoring

2024–2025	Mentored three undergraduates in data collection and annotation for research on case patterns.
2021–2024	Project mentor for Summer Youth Camp for Computational Linguistics (SYCCL)

Other Experience

2021–2024	**Graduate Research Assistant** Dept. of Linguistics, Stony Brook University • Developed automatically generated exercises and hybrid format course notes for Mathematical Methods in Linguistics (LIN 539). Supervisor: Thomas Graf.
2013	**2013 LSA Summer Linguistic Institute** University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2012–2014	**Undergraduate Research Assistant** Language Acquisition Lab, Michigan State University • Assisted in running experiments. Supervisors: Cristina Schmitt and Alan Munn.
2012–2013	**Undergraduate Research Assistant** Language Interaction and Research (LAIR) Lab, Michigan State University • Contributed to development of natural language dialog system for a humanoid robot. Managed lab resources and documentation. Supervisor: Joyce Chai.

Outreach and Service

Outreach

2021–2024	Instructor for SYCCL (Summer Youth Camp for Computational Linguistics), SBU • Lead instructor in Summer 2023 • Assistant instructor in Summer 2021, 2022, 2024
2021–2024	Instructor for NACLO Practice Sessions at SBU

Department Service, SBU Linguistics

Sp. 2024	Student Organizer, Mathematical Linguistics Reading Group
2023–2024	Student Representative
Fa. 2022	Brown Bag Coordinator
Fa. 2021	Skillz Hour Coordinator
Sp. 2020	Assistant Webmaster
2021–2024	Workshop Instructor for Linguistics Skillz Hour

Professional Service

- Journal article reviewer for *Linguistics Vanguard* (2023), *Syntactic Theory and Research* (2024)
- Conference reviewer for SYNC (2023, 2024), FASAL (2024), CLS (2025)

Media appearances

Oct. 2024	Interview with Ridyansh Agrawal. *Talk, laugh, connect.* Blog post. https://blissful-ridribbit.wordpress.com/2024/10/27/case-and-agreement/.
Jan. 2024	Interview with Kabilan Prasanna. *The Schwa.* Podcast. https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/theschwa.

Other Activities

2011–Present **Author and Webmaster**
JapaneseProfessor.com

2012–2014 **Vice President, Secretary, and Activities Director**
q Undergraduate Association for Linguistics at Michigan State (qUALMS)

Fellowships and Funding

2025 **Weisinger Dissertation Fellowship**
Stony Brook University

2023, 2024 **Junior Researcher Award**
Institute for Advanced Computational Science, Stony Brook University

- Supplements graduate stipend to NSF level, plus $4,000 in research funds.

2020–2025 **Graduate Council Fellowship**
Stony Brook University

- Competitive university-wide fellowship. $50,000 over 5 years.

2012 **Engineering Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (EnSURE)**
MSU College of Engineering

2009 **Mitsui USA/Community Scholarship for YFU Study Abroad in Japan**
Mitsui USA Foundation

Awards and Honors

2023 **SUNY GREAT Award**
Stony Brook University

2022 **Honorable Mention**
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

2014 **Board of Trustees Scholarship Award**
Michigan State University

2014 **Outstanding Senior Achievement Award**
MSU College of Arts and Letters

2014 **Presentation Award**
MSULC, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Skills and Additional Information

- **Languages** – English (native), Japanese (advanced, passed JLPT N2 in Dec. 2013).
- **Programming** – Experienced: Python, C++. Familiar: Java, R, Qt, Tkinter, GNU Make, Git, Bash. Basic knowledge: C, Lua, x86, SPARC.
- **Misc. Computing** – Ubuntu Linux, LaTeX, Tikz, Pandoc, Wordpress, Inkscape, HTML/CSS, ConTeXt.
- **Music** – Piano (advanced), marimba (advanced), and some composition.