

# 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

2. **Kenneth Hanson** (under review). “The computational basis of locality in agreement”. Ms., Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY.
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

8. Thomas Graf and **Kenneth Hanson** (2025). Automata for subregular syntax: Syntax with strings attached. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL) 2025*.
7. **Kenneth Hanson** (2025). Adjunction in (T)SL Syntax. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL) 2025*.
6. **Kenneth Hanson** (to appear). The Typology of TSL Case Assignment. *Proceedings of the 18th Meeting on the Mathematics of Language*.
5. Logan Swanson, **Kenneth Hanson**, and Thomas Graf (2025). 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.

## 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

18. **Kenneth Hanson** (2025). *The Typology of TSL Case Assignment*. Oral presentation. MoL 18, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, Aug. 16–17.
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

5. **Kenneth Hanson** (2023). *A Computational Perspective on the Typology of Agreement*. Oral presentation. MG+1, Online, Aug. 12. Hosted by Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY.
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

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|-----------|--|
| 2023      | <p><b>Instructor</b><br/>Stony Brook University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computational Seminar (LIN 655). Topic: Doing Subregular Linguistics. Co-taught with Thomas Graf. Fall 2023.</li> </ul>   |
| 2020–2023 | <p><b>Graduate Teaching Assistant</b><br/>Stony Brook University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syntax (LIN 311). Supervisor: Andrei Antonenko. Spring 2023.</li> <li>• English Grammar (LIN 320). Supervisor: Alex Hong-Lun Yeung. Summer 2021.</li> <li>• Human Language (LIN 101). Supervisor: Mark Aronoff. Spring 2021.</li> <li>• Language and Technology (LIN 120). Supervisor: Kalina Kostyszyn. Fall 2020.</li> </ul> |
| 2012–2013 | <p><b>Undergraduate Teaching Assistant</b><br/>Michigan State University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to Programming II (CSE 232). Supervisor: Mark McCullen. Sp. 2012, Fa. 2012, Sp. 2013.</li> </ul>   |

## 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.