



Lucía Ormaechea

RESEARCHER IN NLP · SPEECH-TO-TEXT ENGINEER · PH.D.

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Summary

Currently working as an **ML Software Engineer** for WIPO (United Nations) at the ATAC center, for the **development of Speech-to-Text solutions**. Recently finished a **joint Ph.D. in Natural Language Processing** at University of Geneva and University of Grenoble-Alpes.
Research interests: **Speech Recognition – Automatic Simplification – Large Language Models – Low-Resource NLP.**

Experience

Machine Learning Software Engineer

Geneva, Switzerland

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO), UNITED NATIONS

Oct. 2025 – Present

- Collaborating with the **Advanced Technology Applications Center (ATAC)**:
 - Participation in the development of the **WIPO Speech-to-Text platform**: **evaluation** of models, **optimization** of the existing pipeline.
 - Maintenance of the **WIPO Speech-to-Text deployment infrastructure**.

Research Scientist & Teaching Assistant

Geneva, Switzerland

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

Dec. 2020 – Dec. 2025

- Participated in **PROPECTO** [↗](#):
 - Developed and fine-tuned **cascade** and **end-to-end models** for the **automatic simplification of spontaneous French**.
 - Authored numerous publications in **high-impact conferences** and **journals**.
- Contributed to **BabelDr** [↗](#): deployed a **containerized Docker application** to perform ASR inside the **BabelDr** medical translation device.
- Collaborated in **Localization** [↗](#) (M.A. course): preparation of course materials, assignment grading, assistance to students in practical sessions.

NLP Research Engineer

Grenoble, France

LABORATOIRE D'INFORMATIQUE DE GRENOBLE (LIG)

Feb. 2020 – Sep. 2020

- Created a complete pipeline for **injecting grammar-based language models** into the Kaldi speech recognition toolkit.
- Trained **HMM-DNN-based acoustic models** using open-source corpora; conducted **prototype testing and evaluation**.
- Developed **Kaldi-based ASR systems** for specialized medical translation devices.

Translation & Localization Intern

Remote Working

NEW YORK HABITAT

Jul. 2018 – Sep. 2018

- Translated **ENG > ESP commercial texts**: video transcriptions – travel articles – apartment reviews – client testimonials.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Pamplona, Spain

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOLOGY, UNIVERSIDAD DE NAVARRA

Sep. 2016 – Jun. 2017

- Development of **educational materials** aiming to automatically evaluate knowledge of Spanish language in L2 learners.
- One-on-one tutorial assessment** on academic writing; **proofreading** of academic papers.

Education

Ph.D. (Joint Degree) in Computer Science & Multilingual Information Processing

Geneva, Switzerland

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE – UNIVERSITÉ GRENOBLE-ALPES

Jun. 2022 – Dec. 2025

- Completed a **joint Ph.D.** between the **Département de Translation Technology** [↗](#) at UNIGE, and the **GETALP team** [↗](#), at UGA.
- Ph.D. Thesis:** *Towards Simpler Transcripts: Investigating Automatic Simplification of French Spontaneous Speech* [↗](#)
- Grade:** *Très honorable avec les félicitations du jury* (**highest distinction**).

M.Sc. in Natural Language Processing

Paris, France

INSTITUT NATIONAL DES LANGUES ET CIVILISATIONS ORIENTALES (INALCO) – UNIVERSITÉ SORBONNE-NOUVELLE (PARIS 3)

Sep. 2018 – Sep. 2020

- Coursework:** Scripting (Bash, Python, Perl) – Object-oriented programming (C++, Java) – Statistical methods for corpus exploitation – Text mining – Neural networks (Keras) – Corpus linguistics – Mark-up languages (XML, XSLT) – Databases (SQL, Neo4J).
- Master's Thesis:** *Mise en place d'un système robuste de reconnaissance automatique de la parole appliqué au domaine médical* [↗](#) **GPA: 19/20**
- Grade:** *Mention très bien* (**highest distinction**).

B.A. in Hispanic Philology

Pamplona, Spain

UNIVERSIDAD DE NAVARRA

Sep. 2014 – Jun. 2018

- Coursework:** Lexicology – Semantics – Phonetics – Phonology – Morphology – Syntax – Discourse analysis – Sociolinguistics.
- Grade:** Extraordinary end-of-degree award nominee.

Teaching & Assistantships

2021-2025	M.A. in Translation, M.A. in Multilingual Communication Technology – <i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Localization, with L. Morado (2021, 2022, 2024, 2025), and S. Girletti (2023), Université de Genève	
2016-2017	Workshops on Spanish Language – <i>Instructor</i> , Grammar courses for non-native undergraduate students, Universidad de Navarra	

Languages

Spanish	<i>Native speaker</i>	
English	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced Certificate in English (CAE)</i>
French	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française (DALF)</i>
Italian	<i>Conversational</i>	

Software Skills

Programming	Python, Bash (<i>proficient</i>) – Perl, SQL (<i>comfortable</i>) – C++, Java (<i>some experience</i>)
AI Models & Techniques	Supervised learning – LLMs – Pre-training – Fine-tuning (full and parameter-efficient) – Prompt engineering
Libraries	Transformers – Speechbrain – Langchain – Flask – Keras – Fairseq – Pandas – NLTK – SpaCy – Scrapy
Tools	Kaldi – Slurm – Git – Vim – LaTeX – Docker – Praat – Pip – Nginx – Sublime Text – Hugging Face Spaces
Operating Systems	GNU/Linux (Ubuntu, Debian, Linux Mint) – Windows (10, 11) – Android
Web Development	HTML – CSS – Jekyll – XML – XSLT – JavaScript – Gradio – MkDocs – GitHub Pages
Software	Microsoft Office – Gate – Trados – Passolo – Adobe Photoshop – GIMP

Selected Publications

Interspeech 2025	Lucía Ormaechea , Nikos Tsourakis, Pierrette Bouillon, Benjamin Lecouteux and Didier Schwab. <i>Towards High-Quality LLM-Based Data for French Spontaneous Speech Simplification: an Exo-Refinement Approach</i> ↗ In: Proc. Interspeech 2025 ↗ , Rotterdam (Netherlands).
IJST 2024	Lucía Ormaechea and Nikos Tsourakis. <i>Automatic Text Simplification for French: Model Fine-Tuning for Simplicity Assessment and Simpler Text Generation</i> ↗ In: International Journal of Speech Technology ↗ (IJST), Springer, vol. 27.
WMT 2024	Jonathan Mutal and Lucía Ormaechea . <i>TIM-UNIGE Translation into Low-Resource Languages of Spain for WMT24</i> ↗ In: Proceedings of the Ninth Conference on Machine Translation ↗ (WMT), Miami (USA).
LREC 2024	Lucía Ormaechea , Nikos Tsourakis, Didier Schwab, Pierrette Bouillon and Benjamin Lecouteux. <i>Simplification Strategies in French Spontaneous Speech</i> ↗ In: Proceedings of the Workshop on DeTermIt! Evaluating Text Difficulty in a Multilingual Context ↗ , within the Joint International Conference LREC-COLING ↗ , Torino (Italy).
ICNSLP 2023	Lucía Ormaechea , Nikos Tsourakis, Didier Schwab, Pierrette Bouillon and Benjamin Lecouteux. <i>Simple, Simpler and Beyond: A Fine-Tuning BERT-Based Approach to Enhance Sentence Complexity Assessment for Text Simplification</i> ↗ In: Proceedings of the 6 th International Conference on Natural Language and Speech Processing (ICNSLP), Trento (Italy).
SwissText 2023	Lucía Ormaechea and Nikos Tsourakis. <i>Extracting Sentence Simplification Pairs from French Comparable Corpora Using a Two-Step Filtering Method</i> ↗ In: Proceedings of the 8 th Swiss Text Analytics Conference ↗ , Neuchâtel (Switzerland).
EAMT 2023	Lucía Ormaechea , Pierrette Bouillon, Maximin Coavoux, Emmanuelle Esperança-Rodier, Johanna Gerlach et al. <i>PROPICTO: Developing Speech-to-Pictograph Translation Systems to Enhance Communication Accessibility</i> ↗ In: Proceedings of the 24 th Annual Conference of The European Association for Machine Translation ↗ (EAMT), Tampere (Finland).

Academic Service

2025	Tenth Conference on Machine Translation (WMT) ↗ – Held in Suzhou (China) – Member of Program Committee
2025	Machine Translation Summit ↗ – Held at University of Geneva (Switzerland) – Member of Local Organizing Team
2024	Corpus Journal No. 26 ↗ – Managing noise during computer processing of linguistic corpora – Peer Reviewer
2023	Bruit de fond ou valeur ajoutée ? Gérer le bruit lors des traitements informatiques des corpus linguistiques ↗ – Seminar jointly organized by Université Grenoble-Alpes and Sapienza Università di Roma – Member of Scientific Committee
2018	5th Forum of the Association for Discourse Linguistics ↗ – Held at Instituto de Cultura y Sociedad, Universidad de Navarra (Spain) – Member of Local Organizing Team