Maaz Shaikh

4-23 Assiniboia Hall, Dept. of Linguistics, University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Canada–T6G 2E7

✉ maazahma@ualberta.ca • 🌐 Website • Ⓘ Maaz Shaikh

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Language documentation and description; language planning and revitalization; grammar writing; morphosyntax; phonology; Western Tibetic and Indo-Aryan languages; oral literature.

EDUCATION

2022-26 **Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics**
University of Alberta, Canada
Dissertation: Towards a grammatical description of Zangskari (expected April 2026)
Committee: Jorge Rosés Labrada (Chair), Benjamin Tucker, Shobhana Chelliah

2021–22 **Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics**
Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
Transferred to University of Alberta

2019–21 **Master of Philosophy in Linguistics**
Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
Thesis: Verb morphology in Awadhi of Azamgarh
Advisor: Pradeep Kumar Das

2017–19 **Master of Arts in Linguistics**
University of Delhi, India
Thesis: Interrogation in Ladakhi

2013–17 **Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering**
Dwarkadas J. Sanghvi College of Engineering, University of Mumbai, India

FIELDWORK & LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION EXPERIENCE

ZANGSKARI (Tibetic, Since 2020)

OVERVIEW	Documentation and description of Zangskari as part of my doctoral research, with additional work in archiving and community-oriented revitalization.
FIELDWORK	Sep–Oct 2020 (pilot); Jul–Aug 2022 (ELF-funded); Jul–Aug 2023 (MITACS-funded); Jun–Aug 2025 (Firebird-funded).
ARCHIVING	Zangskari Language Resource, CoRSAL Archive, University of North Texas.

AZAMGARHI (Indo-Aryan, 2019–2021)

OVERVIEW	Documentation and awareness-raising for this underdocumented and underdescribed Awadhic (Indo-Aryan) language, including corpus development.
FIELDWORK	Jan–Feb 2020; Nov–Dec 2020 (Azamgarh & Mau districts, Uttar Pradesh, India).
ARCHIVING	Azamgarhi Language Resource, CoRSAL Archive, University of North Texas.

BHOJPURI (Indo-Aryan, 2019–2021)

OVERVIEW	Comparative documentation of Western Bhojpuri in relation to Azamgarhi, with focus on sociolinguistic influence and structural variation.
FIELDWORK	Jan–Feb 2020; Nov–Dec 2020 (Azamgarh & Mau districts, Uttar Pradesh, India).
ARCHIVING	Bhojpuri Language Resource, CoRSAL Archive, University of North Texas.

Other fieldwork experience (ex-situ): Leh Ladakhi (Tibetic, 2019); Balti (Tibetic, 2020); Purgi (Tibetic, 2020-2021); Comox-Sliammon (Salishan, 2023)

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED/ IN PRESS/ ACCEPTED

2025   **Shaikh, Maaz** and Jorge Emilio Rosés Labrada. Evolution of grammar writing in Tibetic: A study of best practices from 1831 to the present. *Linguistics: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the Language Sciences*. Accepted for publication.

2022   Dale, Merrion, Prafulla Basumatary, Javid Iqbal, Rex Khullar, and **Maaz Shaikh**. Case study of using Facebook groups to connect community users to archived CoRSAL content. *Language Documentation & Conservation* 16: 399–416. https://hdl.handle.net/10125/74685

UNDER REVIEW/ IN PREPARATION

Shaikh, Maaz. Zangskari (India): Language Context. Manuscript to be submitted to *Language Documentation and Description*.

Shaikh, Maaz and Benjamin Tucker. Zangskari: Illustration of the IPA. Manuscript in preparation for *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*.

PRESENTATIONS

REFEREED CONFERENCE TALKS

2025   **Shaikh, Maaz** and Benjamin Tucker. Zangskari fricatives: Acoustic and articulatory cues. *Alberta Conference on Linguistics (ACOL)*, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, 22 November 2025.
        Shaikh, Maaz and Benjamin Tucker. An articulatory description of the Zangskari coronal obstruents. *International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Language and Linguistics (ICSTLL-58)*, University of Bern, Switzerland, 3–5 September 2025.
        Shaikh, Maaz and Allan Plesniarski. Building automatic speech recognition tools for Zangskari using a documentary corpus. *International Association of Ladakh Studies (IALS-21)*, Kargil, Ladakh, India, 29–30 August 2025.

2024   **Shaikh, Maaz**. Transitive vs. intransitive agreement in Azamgarhi perfective constructions. *International Conference on Tense, Aspect, and Modality in South Asian Languages*, National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO), Paris, France, 29–31 October 2024.

2023   **Shaikh, Maaz**. The V-a-V-i compounds in Hindi. *Alberta Conference on Linguistics (ACOL)*, University of Lethbridge, Canada, 25 November 2023.

2019   **Shaikh, Maaz**. Descriptive phonetics and phonology of Western Sham Ladakhi. *Two-Day National Conference on Phonetics: Theoretical Underpinnings and Research Explorations*, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India, 19–20 November 2019.

INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

2023   Echoes from Zangskar: Insights from documenting an isolated language. *Research 4 Minds (Re4M)*, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu, India, 6 September 2023.
        Citizen science for documentation and revitalization of the Zangskari language. Government Model Degree College, Padum, Zangskar, Ladakh, India, 5 August 2023.

2022   Five-day training workshop on documentation of Zangskari language. Government Model Degree College, Padum, Zangskar, Ladakh, India, 4–8 August 2022. [Video] [Media coverage]
        Documentation of the Zangskari language. Government Model Degree College, Padum, Zangskar, Ladakh, India, 3 August 2022. [Media coverage]

2021   Panelist with Prafulla Basumatary, Kenneth Van Bik, and Marjing Mayanglambam. *CoRSAL Annual Meeting (CoRSAL V)*, Virtual, 1 October 2021.

2025   **Shaikh, Maaz**. Bringing the Zangskari version of the epic of Gesar to life: An AI-generated short movie with multilingual subtitles. *Digital Humanities Conference (DiHuCon)*, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, 25 March 2025.

2024   **Shaikh, Maaz**. Acoustic analysis of the Zangskari vowels. *Generals Paper Conference*, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, 12 January 2024.

2021   **Shaikh, Maaz**. A preliminary description of the Azamgarhi language. *For SEL By SEL Virtual Conference*, Society for Endangered and Lesser-Known Languages (SEL India), 11 January 2021.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

2025   **SFM2Sheet Converter** (Version 1.1): Python tool for converting Standard Format Marker (SFM) files to spreadsheet format (CSV/XLSX). Available at GitHub.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2024–25   **Digital Scholarship Fellowship**, Digital Scholarship Centre, University of Alberta. Amount: $1,200 CAD.

2023–24   **Pansy and George Strange Graduate Scholarship**. Amount: $2,000 CAD.

2023–24   **Ivy A. Thomson and William A. Thomson Graduate Scholarship**. Amount: $15,000 CAD.

2022   **Doctoral Recruitment Award**. University of Alberta. Amount: $5,000 CAD.

2013–17   **DTE Scholarship**, Directorate of Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra. Amount: INR 25,000/year.

GRANTS

2024   **Documentation of the Zangskari version of the Epic of Gesar**. Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research (FFAR), Oral Literature Grant. Amount: $9,990 USD.

2023   **Empowering communities to preserve their heritage: A citizen science approach to language documentation**. MITACS Globalink Research Award. Amount: $6,000 CAD.

2022   **Documentation of Zangskar Tibetan**. Endangered Language Fund (ELF), Language Legacies Grant. Amount: $2,910 USD.

Academic Positions

Since 2022	**Graduate Teaching Assistant**
	University of Alberta, Department of Linguistics
	Courses assisted:
	• LING 309: Syntax (Winter 2024, Winter 2025)
	• LING 102: Intro to Linguistics II (Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)
	• LING 101: Intro to Linguistics I (Fall 2022, Winter 2023)
2021 – 2022	**Senior Research Fellow**
	Jawaharlal Nehru University, Centre for Linguistics
	Funded by the University Grants Commission (UGC), India
2019 – 2021	**Junior Research Fellow**
	Jawaharlal Nehru University, Centre for Linguistics
	Funded by the University Grants Commission (UGC), India

Other Work Experience

Jul 2025–Present	**Freelance Hindi Linguist**, SIDE Global
	Google Gemini Hindi (India)
Sep 2022–Aug 2024	**Freelance Urdu Linguist**, PTW
	Google Gemini Urdu (India) — Large-Scale Text-to-Speech (TTS)
May 2020–Aug 2020	**Freelance Linguist**, Lionbridge
	Awadhi Language Localization

Service

2024–26	Linguistics Colloquium Liaison, Department of Linguistics, University of Alberta
2025–26	Scientific Editorial Board Member, *Ladakhi Reference Grammar* by Rebecca Norman and Nicolas Tournadre (with co-editors Eric Mélac, Quentin Devers, and Konchok Tashi).
2025	Organizing Committee, Alberta Conference On Linguistics (ACOL), University of Alberta, Canada.

Skills

Languages

Native	Urdu, Hindi
Advanced	Azamgarhi, English
Intermediate	Marathi, Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Persian (incl. Dari, Tajiki varieties)
Beginner	Punjabi, French
Reading	Arabic, Sanskrit, Tibetan
Field Research	Zangskari, Purgi, Ladakhi, Balti, Comox-Sliammon

Technical Skills

Markup Languages	LaTeX, HTML, Markdown
Scripting	Praat, R, Python
Linguistic Software	ELAN, FLEx, SayMore, Phonology Assistant, Praat
Cartography	QGIS
Multimedia	Audacity, Adobe Premiere Pro
Office Suite	Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Google Workspace

Professional Memberships

Since 2022	Linguistic Society of India (LSI), Lifetime Member
Since 2020	Society for Endangered and Lesser-Known Languages (SEL India), Lifetime Member
Since 2019	Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL)