

MAKSYMILIAN DĄBKOWSKI / RESEARCH

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I am a PhD student in the Linguistics Department at the University of California, Berkeley.

My research centers on (metrical) phonology, morphology, syntax, and the interfaces of the three. My other interests include semantics, language documentation, language revitalization, and psycholinguistics.

The primary empirical focus of my work is A'ingae (or Cofán, iso 639-3: con), an Amazonian language isolate spoken by ca. 1,500 Cofán people in northeast Ecuador and southern Colombia.

Below, my research projects are listed in vague order of recent, active interest. See [curriculum vitae](#) for publications by type and in chronological order.

1	A'INGAE (OR COFÁN)	2
1.1	Metrical phonology and its interfaces	2
1.2	Diphthongs and their changes	3
1.3	Rationale and apprehensional semantics in a typological perspective	3
1.4	Language documentation	3
1.5	The left periphery	4
1.6	Conditional constructions	4
1.7	Nominal classifiers	4
2	DISCONTINUOUS VOWEL HARMONY IN GUÉBIE	4
3	PARAGUAYAN GUARANÍ AND FREE AFFIX ORDER	5
4	PIED-PIPING BY CYCLIC AGREE	5
5	LOGIC IN SPONTANEOUS LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION	5
6	WORDHOOD AND STRESS IN GARÍFUNA	6
7	DEFINITENESS AND WORD ORDER IN POLISH	6
8	YUCATEC MAYA SYNTAX IN SIGN-BASED CONSTRUCTION GRAMMAR	6
9	MISCELLANEOUS	7

1 A'INGAE (OR COFÁN)

1.1 *Metrical phonology and its interfaces*

I describe and analyze the phonology of stress and glottalization in A'ingae (or Cofán, isolate, ISO 639-3: con) and provide a detailed description of the language's rich verbal morphology. I argue that the A'ingae morpheme-specific dominance effects (stress deletion) cannot be captured representationally. I demonstrate that the licensing of the A'ingae glottal stop differs across two morphophonological domains (metrically licensed within the inner, but not the outer, domain) and interacts with stress deletion in a way which bears out a new prediction of Cophonologies by Phase (Sande, Jenks, and Inkelas, 2020).

PHASE-DEPENDENT LICENSING OF THE A'INGAE GLOTTAL STOP. Second qualifying paper. University of California, Berkeley. In preparation. [qualifying_paper](#)

DOMINANCE IS NON-REPRESENTATIONAL: EVIDENCE FROM A'INGAE VERBAL STRESS. *Phonology* 38(4). In press. [manuscript](#)

A'INGAE SYNTAX CONDITIONS THE REPRESENTATION OF GLOTTALIZATION. Paper presented at the 28th Manchester Phonology Meeting, University of Edinburgh and University of Manchester. 2021. [handout](#) [abstract](#)

LARYNGEAL FEET IN A'INGAE: IMPLICATIONS FOR METRICAL THEORY. First qualifying paper. University of California, Berkeley. Submitted. [qualifying_paper](#)
In: *Proceedings of the 39th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project. In press. [proceedings](#) [handout](#) [abstract](#)

MORPHOLOGICAL DOMAINS AND IDIOSYNCRASIES IN A'INGAE STRESS. Poster presented at the phonological symposium of Amazônicas VIII, Federal University of Goiás, Goiânia, Brazil. 2021. [talk](#) [handout](#) [abstract](#)

THE MORPHOPHONOLOGY OF A'INGAE VERBAL STRESS. In: *Proceedings of the 38th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, pp. 137–146. Ed. by Rachel Soo, Daniel Reisinger, and Katie Martin. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project. 2021. [proceedings](#) [slides](#) [abstract](#)

THE MORPHOPHONOLOGY OF A'INGAE VERBAL STRESS. Honors thesis. Providence, RI: Brown University. 2019. [thesis](#) [slides](#)

HEAVY FEET AND GLOTTAL STOPS IN A'INGAE. Paper presented at the 9th Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America, University of Texas at Austin. 2019. [slides](#) [abstract](#)

1.2 *Diphthongs and their changes*

I document a typologically unusual process of postlabial raising in A'ingae. I present a model which derives the postlabial raising through an interaction of constraint weights and the number of Q-Theoretic (Inkelas and Shih, 2016, 2017) subsegments, providing a novel argument for the representations of Q-Theory.

A Q-THEORETIC SOLUTION TO A'INGAE POSTLABIAL RAISING. Manuscript. University of California, Berkeley. 2022. [manuscript](#)

1.3 *Rationale and apprehensional semantics in a typological perspective*

In a collaborative project with Scott AnderBois, I describe and analyze different uses of the A'ingae apprehensional morpheme *-sa'ne* APPR. We put forth a formal account of rationale and precautioning clauses, which captures language-internal asymmetries and typological trends within this semantic domain.

RATIONALE AND PRECAUTIONING CLAUSES: INSIGHTS FROM A'INGAE, as first author, with Scott AnderBois. *Journal of Semantics*. Resubmitted. [manuscript](#)

A'INGAE =SA'NE 'APPR' AND THE SEMANTIC TYPOLOGY OF APPREHENSIONAL ADJUNCTS, as equal author, with Scott AnderBois. In: *Proceedings of the 30th Semantics and Linguistic Theory Conference*, pp. 43–62. Washington, DC: Linguistic Society of America. 2020. [proceedings](#) [handout](#) [abstract](#)

THE APPREHENSIONAL DOMAIN IN A'INGAE (COFÁN), as first author, with Scott AnderBois. In: *A Typology of Apprehensives*. Ed. by Marine Vuillermet, Martina Faller, and Eva Schultze Berndt. Studies in Diversity Linguistics. Language Science Press. In press. [chapter](#) [abstract](#)

1.4 *Language documentation*

I documented A'ingae in the indigenous communities of Dureno and Sinangoé, Sucumbíos, Ecuador. I deposited over 14h of traditional and contemporary oral narratives (2h30 transcribed and translated). I managed the development of LingView, a web interface for viewing multimedia language materials.

A'INGAE (ECUADOR AND COLOMBIA) – LANGUAGE SNAPSHOT. *Language Documentation and Description* 20, pp. 1–12. 2021. [article](#)

A'INGAE FIELD MATERIALS, as first contributor, with Shen Aguinda, and Leidy Quenamá. 2020–19. California Language Archive, Survey of California and Other Indian Languages. University of California, Berkeley. [collection](#)

A'INGAE LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION, as equal author, with Justin Bai, Kalinda Pride, and Nicholas Tomlin. Poster presented at Summer Research Symposium, Brown University, Providence, RI. 2017. [poster](#)

1.5 *The left periphery*

I argue that A'ingae second-position clitics are matrix clausal C-heads. Thus, I show that—despite its apparent non-configurationality—A'ingae has a structured left periphery.

A'INGAE SECOND-POSITION CLITICS ARE MATRIX C-HEADS. In: *Proceedings of the 25th Workshop on Structure and Constituency in the Languages of the Americas*. Vancouver, BC: University of British Columbia Working Papers in Linguistics. In press. [proceedings](#) [handout](#) [abstract](#)

1.6 *Conditional constructions*

I describe A'ingae conditionals and propose a construal analysis thereof. Distanced conditionals are formed with the similative (comparative) *-'kan* SML. I observe that comparison evokes a distanced mental space and argue that in distanced conditionals, *-'kan* SML is bleached to convey mental space distance alone.

CONDITIONAL CONSTRUCTIONS IN A'INGAE. Manuscript. University of California, Berkeley. 2021. [manuscript](#)

1.7 *Nominal classifiers*

I describe and analyze A'ingae size and shape classifiers. I observe a new fractured shape morpheme *-fu'chu* SH.FRC. I show that A'ingae classifiers can introduce subordinate clauses if the classifier matches the shape of the subordinate clause's head and the head is sufficiently agentive.

COFÁN COMES IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES. Manuscript. Providence, RI: Brown University. 2017. [manuscript](#)

2 DISCONTINUOUS VOWEL HARMONY IN GUÉBIE

In a collaborative project with Hannah Sande, I document and analyze discontinuous vowel harmony in Guébie (Kru, iso 639-3: gie) focus fronting. We propose a novel model of the phonology-syntax interface, where subparts of phonologically evaluated phases may undergo further movement.

PHONOLOGY-SYNTAX INTERLEAVING IN GUÉBIE FOCUS FRONTING, as first author, with Hannah Sande. Paper presented at the 14th Brussels Conference on Generative Linguistics: *Where syntax and phonology meet*, KU Leuven Brussels Campus, Belgium. 2021. [handout](#) [abstract](#)

3 PARAGUAYAN GUARANÍ AND FREE AFFIX ORDER

I describe and analyze the prosodic structure of the verb in Paraguayan Guaraní (Tupian, iso 639-3: gug). I show that the Paraguayan Guaraní (partially free) suffix order is determined by phonological subcategorization and prosodic well-formedness. I propose that the phenomenon of free affix order is not unified, but driven by either phonology or morphology, giving rise to two distinct typological profiles.

PARAGUAYAN GUARANÍ AND THE TYPOLOGY OF FREE AFFIX ORDER. In: *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America* 7. Washington, DC: Linguistic Society of America. In press. [proceedings](#) [handout](#) [abstract](#) [abstract_summary](#)

PROSODY DRIVES PARAGUAYAN GUARANÍ SUFFIX ORDER. In: *Supplemental Proceedings of the 2021 Annual Meeting on Phonology*. Ed. by Peter Jurgec, Liisa Duncan, Emily Elfner, Yoonjung Kang, Alexei Kochetov, Brittney K. O'Neill, Avery Ozburn, Keren Rice, Nathan Sanders, Jessamyn Schertz, Nate Shaftoe, and Lisa Sullivan. Washington, DC: Linguistic Society of America. In press. [proceedings](#) [talk](#) [poster](#) [abstract](#)

PARAGUAYAN GUARANÍ IN A PRELIMINARY TYPOLOGY OF FREE AFFIX ORDER. Paper presented at the Emerging Topics in Typology 2021 (International Workshop Series) conference, University of Helsinki, Finland. 2021. [handout](#) [abstract](#)

PARAGUAYAN GUARANÍ PROSODY AND THE TYPOLOGY OF VARIABLE AFFIX ORDER. Manuscript. University of California, Berkeley. 2021. [manuscript](#)

4 PIED-PIPING BY CYCLIC AGREE

I argue that pied-piping is a consequence of WH-feature percolation, formalized within Béjar and Rezac's (2009) model of Cyclic Agree. I capture cross-linguistic variation with respect to pied-piping and WH-inversion. I account for clausal pied-piping in Basque (isolate, iso 639-3: eus).

PIED-PIPING BY CYCLIC AGREE: IN DEFENSE OF FEATURE PERCOLATION. Manuscript. University of California, Berkeley. 2021. [manuscript](#)

5 LOGIC IN SPONTANEOUS LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION

In a collaborative project with Roman Feiman, I designed and implemented a novel experimental paradigm for detecting processing difficulty signatures in self-paced reading tasks. We demonstrate that spontaneous natural language comprehension is normatively accurate.

EVIDENCE OF ACCURATE LOGICAL REASONING IN ONLINE SENTENCE COMPREHENSION, as first author, with Roman Feiman. In preparation.

EVIDENCE OF ACCURATE LOGICAL REASONING IN ONLINE SENTENCE COMPREHENSION, as first author, with Roman Feiman. Paper presented at the 34th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. 2021. [talk](#) [slides](#) [abstract](#)

EVIDENCE OF ACCURATE LOGICAL REASONING IN ONLINE SENTENCE COMPREHENSION, as first author, with Roman Feiman. Poster presented at the 47th annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology. 2021. [talk](#) [slides](#) [abstract](#)

DO PEOPLE MAKE SPONTANEOUS LOGICAL INFERENCES WHILE READING? Capstone project presented at Brown University, Providence, RI. 2019. [slides](#)

6 WORDHOOD AND STRESS IN GARÍFUNA

I discuss basic stress assignment in morphologically simplex forms in Garífuna (Arawakan, iso 639-3: cab). I identify stress as a diagnostic of phonological wordhood in morphologically complex forms. I describe and analyze the word-internal process of vowel hiatus resolution.

WORDHOOD AND STRESS IN GARÍFUNA. Manuscript. University of California, Berkeley. 2021. [manuscript](#)

7 DEFINITENESS AND WORD ORDER IN POLISH

I argue that *ten* DEF in Polish (Slavic, iso 639-3: pol) is a definite determiner whose anaphoric uses are governed by word order and disambiguation. I demonstrate that the determiner *ten* DEF has a typologically novel range of functions.

DEFINITENESS AND WORD ORDER IN POLISH. Manuscript. Providence, RI: Brown University. 2018. [manuscript](#)

8 YUCATEC MAYA SYNTAX IN SIGN-BASED CONSTRUCTION GRAMMAR

I formalize a syntactic fragment of Yucatec Maya (Mayan, iso 639-3: yua) in Sign-Based Construction Grammar and argue against a nominalization analysis of the language's intransitive subjunctive control.

YUCATECAN CONTROL AND LEXICAL CATEGORIES IN SBCG. In: *Proceedings of the 24th International Conference on Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar*. Ed. by Stefan Müller. CSLI Publications, pp. 162–178. 2017. [proceedings](#) [slides](#) [abstract](#)

YUCATEC MAYA IN SBCG: A FRAGMENT, with Justin Bai, Kalinda Pride, and Nicholas Tomlin. Paper presented at the 24th International Conference on Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar, University of Kentucky, Lexington. 2017. [slides](#) [grammar_signature](#) [abstract](#)

9 MISCELLANEOUS

I used to dabble in things other than linguistics (apparently philosophy, translation, and emojis).

MARRYING THE PROSENTENTIAL THEORY OF TRUTH TO FORMAL SEMANTICS. Manuscript. Providence, RI: Brown University. 2018. [manuscript](#)

A WITTGENSTEINIAN LOOK ON VAGUENESS. *Ivy League Undergraduate Research Journal* 1, pp. 1–12. Ivy League Undergraduate Research Symposium. 2018. [article](#)

AN END AND A BEGINNING and THREE THINGS MOST CURIOUS. Translations of the poems *KONIEC I POCZĄTEK* and *TRZY RZECZY NAJDZIWNIEJSZE* by Wisława Szymborska. *Aldus, a Journal of Translation* 8, pp. 6–13. 2017. [poem_translations](#)

PROPOSAL FOR A *PRETZEL* EMOJI, as equal author, with Justin Bai. *Unicode® Technical Committee Document Registry* L2/16-374. 2016. [document](#)