

# Sunkulp Ananthanarayan

Last updated November 27, 2022

---

Email: [sunkulp.ananth@gmail.com](mailto:sunkulp.ananth@gmail.com)

Website: [sunnyananth.com](http://sunnyananth.com)

Any pronouns: they/them/theirs

he/him/his

she/her/hers

## Research Interests

---

- Language documentation/description
- Sociolinguistics
- Contact linguistics (mixed languages, language shift, multilingual communities)
- Historical linguistics, esp. grammaticalization
- Computational linguistics, esp. software in documentation contexts
- Indigenous and minoritized language activism, revitalization

## Education

---

- 2021      **B.A., Linguistics**, University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin)  
Cumulative GPA: 3.7723  
Major GPA: 4.0000  
*Certificate*: Elements of Computing
- 2018      **Semester Exchange in Linguistics**, Australian National University (ANU)  
GPA: 4.0000  
*Coursework*:  
Advanced Sociophonetics  
Qualitative Methods in Linguistics  
Learning an Indigenous Australian Language (Gamilaraay)  
Dictionaries and Dictionary Making  
Field Methods (Motu, Austronesian)
- 2022      **Institute on Collaborative Language Research (CoLang)**, University of Montana  
Practicum: Northern Cheyenne  
*Coursework*:  
Documenting Conversation  
Dictionary Building  
Archiving for the Future  
Language Work Outside of Your Own Community  
Translating Linguistic Grammar for Language Teaching  
Blurring the Lines  
Total Physical Response  
Working with Archival Materials

## Research and Work Positions

---

### *Research positions*

- 2022-      **Post-Baccalaureate Researcher**. Yale Pama-Nyungan lab.  
Present      Supervisor(s): Prof. Claire Bowern  
Organization: Yale University
- Built technologies for language documentation work
  - Investigated semantic change in Tense-Aspect-Modality as it relates to polarity in Australian languages

- Used Chirila Australian language database and archive to build community-oriented interfaces to access language materials and information

2022-Pres. **Principal developer.** FLExible Texts.

Supervisor(s): Dr. Amalia Skilton

Organization: Cornell University

- Created Python suite of software to import language documentation materials from ELAN into FLEx
- Used child language acquisition samples from two different language communities to test this pipeline
- Adjusted data structure to accommodate turn-taking

2021-2022 **Ontology developer.** Active Interpretation of Disparate Alternatives Research Group (AIDA).

Supervisor(s): Prof. Katrin Erk

Organization: Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

- Annotated and evaluated contradictory texts with disinformation about SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19
- Developed an ad-hoc ontological mapping through conversation between teams
- Ran metrics on similarity of graph nodes to determine gold standard for comparison with machine-parsed texts
- Contributed to building a more thorough model of claims involving belief states and temporal/aspectual dimensions

2016-2020 **Research Assistant.** Naduhup Documentation Research Group.

Supervisor(s): Prof. Patience Epps

Organization: UT Austin

- Reformatted dictionary, fixing encoding problems and inconsistencies, and incorporated it into a database
- Conducted analyses about historical contact and evolution of Naduhup languages

2016-2019 **Research Assistant.** Bilingual Annotation Task Force.

Supervisor(s): Profs. Jacqueline Toribio and Barbara Bullock

Organization: UT Austin

- Validated annotations of code-mixed language texts
- Vectorized and reduced dimensionality of texts and applied biological and statistical models to propose analyses about code-mixing

2018 **Visiting Fellow.** Matukar Panau Phonetic Variation Project.

Organization: The ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language

- Cleaned minority language data and pruned it for primary investigation to find points of interest
- Created pronunciation dictionary of annotated dataset
- Modelled audio to create automated text alignment with audio
- Ran algorithm for recursive performance of alignment
- Made pipeline for extraction of acoustic, person, and utterance data and meta-data from the aligned texts
- Programmed statistical models to assess the sociolinguistic scene of this language through sociophonetics

*Work positions*

- 2018      **Primary Web Developer.** Gamilaraay (Kamilaroi) Revitalization Project.
- Consulted with indigenous community representatives to design a site oriented toward cultural preservation
  - Recycled and revamped existing designs to better match the specification
- 2020-2021   **AI Specialist Intern.** Appen Butler-Hill.
- Researched industry standards for user behavior data evaluation
  - Mapped text-based data into abstracted web ontology
  - Compared knowledge graphs of varied texts
- 2016-Pres.   **Spanish Tutor.** Independent.
- Practiced conversational Spanish with students in one-on-one and group settings
  - Generated and executed lesson plans for students just beginning learning Spanish both with and without formal lessons, as well as those with experience
  - Worked with students to reach writing and comprehension goals
- 2016-Pres.   **Hindi Tutor.** Independent.
- Leveraged linguistics experience in comparing Hindi and English patterns to augment learning beyond basics
  - Practiced conversational Hindi with students in small scale tutorials
- 2019      **Machine Learning Instructor.** iD Tech.
- Redesigned faulty curriculum for teenager-oriented machine learning lessons
  - Led classes through tutorials about machine learning algorithms and implementations
  - Guided students in individual projects utilizing what they learnt
- 2017      **Programming Instructor.** Wize Academy.
- Created a curriculum of lessons to teach coding aimed towards Minecraft
  - Led ten lessons in programming for a class of 9 children
- 2021-2022   **Pipeline advisor, farmhand.** Tazo Farms, LLC.
- Observed steps in supply chain for indoor agriculture, providing recommendations based on personal research
  - Performed maintenance on hydroponic systems
  - Planted, harvested, and processed products of the farm
- 2016      **Theatre Camp Counselor.** New Age Montessori School.
- Ran a week-long theatre camp for young children (elementary school)
  - Directed a short play, incorporating the students' ideas consistently
  - Planned curriculum to integrate with teaching blocking and acting for the play

## Workshops and reading groups attended

---

### Workshops

- 2022      *Community-Centered Language Documentation*. Host: Sylvia Schreiner, George Mason University. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting
- 2019      *Phylogenetics: Computational Historical Linguistics*. Host: Claire Bower, Yale University. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting
- 2019      *Documenting Multilingualism*. Hosts: Lenore Grenoble, University of Chicago and Jack Martin, University of William & Mary. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting.
- 2018      *Using your own language data for speech recognition*. Host: Daan van Esch, Google. University of Melbourne.
- 2018      *GramBank Coding Retreat*. Host: Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language, Australian National University Node. Australian National University Kooloal Coastal Campus.
- 2018      *Directionality and Associated Motion Workshop*. Host: Harold Koch, Australian National University. Australian National University.
- 2018      *Working in Tech—It's Not Just for Computational Linguists*. Hosts: Samantha Beaver, Memra Language Services; Sam Cooper, NoRedInk; Christopher Stewart, Google; Frankie Pennington Sensory, Inc.; Brent Woo, Amazon. Webinar by Linguistic Society of America's Linguistics Beyond Academia Special Interest Group
- 2018      *Support Vector Machines as a Sociolinguistic Tool*. Host: Tyler Kendall, University of Oregon. New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV) 47
- 2017      *Sociophonetics Workshop: Big Data and Social Research*. Host: Malcah Yaeger-Dror, University of Arizona. UT Austin.

### Groups and Seminars

- 2022-Pres.      *Language documentation, contact, and historical linguistics reading group* (Yale University)
- 2022-Pres.      *Semantics reading group* (Yale University)
- 2022-Pres.      *Phonology reading group* (Yale University)
- 2021-2022      *Linguistic theory reading group* (Monash University)
- 2017-2022      *Graduate seminar for research in documentary/descriptive linguistics* (UT Austin)
- 2016-Pres.      *Undergraduate Linguistics Society* (UT Austin)
- 2020-2021      *Formal approaches to morphology* (ANU)
- 2019-2020      *Grammatical theory reading group* (ANU)
- 2017-2020      *South Americanist seminar* (UT Austin)
- 2018-2019      *Phonetics discussion* (ANU, CoEDL)
- 2018      *Grammar writing* (ANU, CoEDL)
- 2018      *Language evolution and change* (ANU, CoEDL)
- 2018      *Programming in R for linguistics* (CoEDL)

## Publications and write-ups

---

- 2021 Epps, Patience and Sunkulp Ananthanarayan. 2021. **Stability in grammatical morphology: An Amazonian case-study**. *Diversity in Language Change: Historical Linguistics and Endangered Languages*. Ed. by Patience Epps, Daniel Law, and Na'ama Pat-El. Series in Historical Linguistics. Routledge
- 2018 González, Simón, Catherine Travis, James Grama, Danielle Barth, and Sunkulp Ananthanarayan. 2018a. **Recursive forced alignment: A test on a minority language**. *Proceedings of the 17th Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology*. Ed. by Julien Epps, Joe Wolfe, John Smith, and Caroline Jones, pp. 145–148
- 2017 Epps, P., K. Obert, L. Storto, C. Assis, and S. Ananthanarayan. 2017. **Histórias de Vida Da Comunidade Waruá**. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. ISBN: 9781976480324. URL: <https://books.google.com/books?id=izHbtAEACAAJ>

## Conference presentations

---

- 2023 Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp, Amalia Skilton, Sofia Pierson, and Claire Bower. Mar. 2023. **fibl: A tool to bolster text transfer between ELAN and FLEx**. The 8th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (accepted). Virtual.
- 2023 Pierson, Sofia, Amalia Skilton, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan, and Claire Bower. Mar. 2023. **Where FLEx falls flat: A reflection on built-in assumptions of documentation software and their consequences for language work**. The 8th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (accepted). Virtual.
- 2022 Babinski, Sarah, Kassandra Haakman, Amelia Lake, Irene Yi, Coralie Cram, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan, and Claire Bower. Oct. 2022. **How can endangered language collections be made more discoverable? Where Do We Go From Here?** Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin, Germany.
- 2022 Yi, Irene, Amelia Lake, Kassandra Haakman, Sarah Babinski, Ka Fai Yip, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan, Coralie Cram, and Claire Bower. Oct. 2022. **“Archival collections” vs “Computational corpora”: The structure and concerns of text repositories built for disparate tasks**. Where Do We Go From Here? Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin, Germany.
- 2019 Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp, Eri Kashima, Siva Kalyan, and Naomi Peck. Feb. 2019. **Linguistic Cartography: Mapping Linguistic Theory**. The Texas Linguistics Symposium. Austin, Texas, United States.

- 2019 Epps, Patience and Sunkulp Ananthanarayan. Jan. 2019. **Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America (SSILA 2019). Stability in grammatical morphology: A Naduhup case-study (Amazonia)**. The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas. New York City, New York, United States.
- 2018 Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp. Feb. 2018. **Documentation of Dâw and Tools for Comparative Analysis**. Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language (CoEDL) Fest. Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
- 2018 Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp, Eri Kashima, Siva Kalyan, and Naomi Peck. July 2018. **Linguistic Cartography: Mapping Linguistic Theory**. CoEDL ANU Linguistics Seminar. Canberra, ACT, Australia.
- 2018 González, Simón, James Grama, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan, Danielle Barth, and Catherine Travis. Oct. 2018. **Opening the door for forced-alignment to minority languages**. New Ways of Analyzing Variation 47. New York City, New York, United States.
- 2018 González, Simón, Catherine Travis, James Grama, Danielle Barth, and Sunkulp Ananthanarayan. Dec. 2018b. **Recursive forced alignment: A test on a minority language**. Speech Science and Technology Conference (SST2018). Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.
- 2017 Aguirre, Ashley, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan, Emily Frazier, Nikki Grant, Kelly Hall, Rebecca Law, and Lauren Wagner. May 2017a. **From Documentation to Community Resources: Developing Pedagogical Materials for Naduhup Languages in Northwestern Brazil**. UT Undergraduate Research Bazaar. Austin, Texas, United States.
- 2017 Aguirre, Ashley, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan, Emily Frazier, Nikki Grant, Kelly Hall, Rebecca Law, and Lauren Wagner. May 2017b. **From Documentation to Community Resources: Developing Pedagogical Materials for Naduhup Languages in Northwestern Brazil**. UT Undergraduate Linguistics Research Symposium. Austin, Texas, United States.
- 2017 Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp. Oct. 2017a. **Documenting Dâw**. Undergraduate Research Showdown Research Communication Competition. Austin, Texas, United States.
- 2017 Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp. Nov. 2017b. **Invited Lecture: Dâw Field-work**. Seminar in Language and Culture in Amazonia. Austin, Texas, United States.

## Awards and grants

---

- 2020 **Unrestricted Endowed Presidential Scholarship** (Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship).
- 2019 **President's Award for Global Learning** (International Office).
- 2019 **Unrestricted Endowed Presidential Scholarship** (Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships).
- 2018 **Liberal Arts Honors Upper Division Scholarship** (Liberal Arts Honors).

2018	<b>Transdisciplinary Innovation Grant</b> (The Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language).
2018	<b>Undergraduate Research Scholarship</b> (School of Undergraduate Studies).
2018	<b>Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program</b> (College of Liberal Arts).
2018	<b>Liberal Arts Honors Research/Conference Award</b> (Liberal Arts Honors).
2017	<b>Liberal Arts Honors Scholarship</b> (Liberal Arts Honors).
2017	<b>Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Scholarship</b> (Office of the Vice President for Research).
2017	<b>Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Scholarship</b> (Office of the Vice President for Research).
2017	<b>Liberal Arts Honors Upper Division Scholarship</b> (Liberal Arts Honors).
2017	<b>Scholarship for Exchange Programs</b> (College of Liberal Arts).

## Service

---

### *Conference work*

Volunteer	Conference on the Indigenous Languages of Latin America (2019)
Volunteer	Hispanic Linguistics Symposium (2018)
Volunteer	Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (2017)
Moderator	Conference on the Indigenous Languages of Latin America (2017)

### *Event organization*

Organizer	Linguistic Society of America Committee on LGBTQ+ Issues in Linguistics 2nd Annual Pride Month Wikipedia Edit-a-thon (2022)
Organizer	Linguistic Society of America Committee on Gender Equity in Linguistics Wikipedia Edit-a-thon (2022)
Organizer	Linguistic Society of America Meeting Wikipedia Edit-a-thon (2022)
Organizer	Linguistic Society of America Committee on LGBTQ+ Issues in Linguistics Pride Month Wikipedia Edit-a-thon (2021)
Organizer	International Year of Indigenous Languages 2019 Wikipedia Edit-a-thon (2019)
Organizer	Indigenous Arts Fest (2018)
Organizer	Indigenous Arts Fest: Pachamamanchikwan Kawsakunchik (2017)

### *Departmental service*

Undergraduate liaison	UT Austin Department of Linguistics and Associated Students of Linguistics (graduate student organization) (2018-Pres.)
Authorized Rep.	UT Latin Americanist Linguists and Anthropologists (2019-2021)
Oligarch	UT Austin Undergrad Linguistics Society (2017, 2020-2021)



President UT Austin Undergraduate Linguistics Society (2019)

VP UT Austin Undergraduate Linguistics Society (2018)

### *Other*

Steering committee Association of Nonbinary and Trans Language Researchers (ANTLR)

Collaborator Creating Inclusive and Representative Wikipedia Articles for Indigenous Languages (2021; preparation for International Decade of Indigenous Languages, 2022-2032)

## **Other professional activities & skills**

---

### *Fieldwork*

2017 Dâw (Naduhup). Waruá/São Gabriel da Cachoeira, Amazonas, Brazil; Pedagogical material creation, lexicography, recent and distant history documentation, material culture documentation  
Materials created during the project:

- Dicionário Dâw, a Dâw-Portuguese-English Dictionary
- Archived materials at the Archive of Indigenous Languages of Latin America (AILLA identifier for full language collection: [ailla:254973](#))

### *Professional Memberships*

2021-Pres. LSA Working Group on Demographic Data

2019-Pres. LSA Committee on LGBTQ+ Issues in Linguistics (COZIL)

2019-Pres. LSA Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics (CEDL)

2019-Pres. LSA Committee on Gender Equity in Linguistics (COGEL; formerly COSWL)

2017-Pres. Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America (SSILA)

2018-2019 LSA LGBTQ+ Issues in Linguistics Special Interest Group

2016-2018 LSA Committee on AP Linguistics

2016-Pres. Linguistic Society of America (LSA)

### *Languages*

English, Native

Latin American Spanish, Fluent

Brazilian Portuguese, Advanced conversational

Spoken and Written Hindi (Heritage), Conversational

Spoken Marathi (Heritage), Intermediate

Classical Latin, Intermediate

Intermediate reading and listening capability in various other Italo-Western Romance languages, as well as German.



*Programming and markup languages*

Python, Proficient

R, Proficient

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Proficient

HTML5, Proficient

JavaScript & JQuery, Intermediate

CSS & Bootstrap CSS, Intermediate

Praat scripting, Intermediate

MediaWiki markup, Intermediate

Shell scripting, Adequate

MySQL, Adequate

PHP3, Adequate

*Software*

Praat, Proficient

SIL's Field Language Explorer, Proficient

SIL's Toolbox, Proficient

ELAN Audio and Text Annotation, Proficient

Montreal Forced Aligner, Proficient

Jupyter Notebooks, Proficient

Git (GitHub, GitLab), Proficient

Lawrence Antony's AntConc Concordancing Tool, Adequate