Sunkulp Ananthanarayan

Last updated August 17, 2023

Email: sunkulp.ananth@gmail.com

Website: sunnyananth.com

Any pronouns: they/them/theirs
he/him/his
she/her/hers

Research Interests

– Language documentation, reclamation, and activism
– Linguistic description, typology, and variation
– Sociolinguistics
– Contact linguistics
– Historical linguistics, esp. grammaticalization
– Computational linguistics, esp. software in documentation contexts

Education

2023-Pres.   **M.A./PhD, General Linguistics**, University of Washington, Seattle (UW)

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)

Ancillary and supplemental education

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

2022-2023   **Post-Baccalaureate coursework**, Yale University

Coursework:
Bridging Formal Semantics and Historical Linguistics
Topics in Language Documentation: Software

Research and Work Positions

Research positions

2022-2023   **Post-Baccalaureate Researcher**. Yale Pama-Nyungan lab.
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

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 metadata 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

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 Bowern, 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 Kioloa 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)
2022-2023	*Language documentation and technology research group* (Yale University)
2022-2023	*Semantics reading group* (Yale University)
2022-2023	*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)
2016-2021	*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 Bowern. Mar. 2023a. `flibl`**: A tool to bolster text transfer between ELAN and FLEx**. The 8th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation. Virtual.
2023	Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp, Amalia Skilton, Sofia Pierson, and Claire Bowern. Jan. 2023b. `flibl`**: A tool to bolster text transfer between ELAN and FLEx**. Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas. Virtual.
2023	Pierson, Sofia, Amalia Skilton, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan, and Claire Bowern. Mar. 2023a. **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. Virtual.
2023	Pierson, Sofia, Amalia Skilton, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan, and Claire Bowern. Jan. 2023b. **Where FLEx falls flat: A reflection on built-in assumptions of documentation software and their consequences for language work**. Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas. Virtual.
2022	Babinski, Sarah, Kassandra Haakman, Amelia Lake, Irene Yi, Coralie Cram, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan, and Claire Bowern. 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 Bowern. 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 Fieldwork**. 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, UT Austin).

2019   **President's Award for Global Learning** (International Office, UT Austin).

2019   **Unrestricted Endowed Presidential Scholarship** (Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, UT Austin).

2018   **Liberal Arts Honors Upper Division Scholarship** (Liberal Arts Honors, UT Austin).

2018   **Transdisciplinary Innovation Grant (with Catherine Travis, James Grama, Simón González, and Danielle Barth)** (The Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language).

2018   **Undergraduate Research Scholarship** (School of Undergraduate Studies, UT Austin).

2018   **Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program** (College of Liberal Arts, UT Austin).

2018   **Liberal Arts Honors Research/Conference Award** (Liberal Arts Honors, UT Austin).

2017   **Liberal Arts Honors Scholarship** (Liberal Arts Honors, UT Austin).

2017	**Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Scholarship** (Office of the Vice President for Research, UT Austin).
2017	**Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Scholarship** (Office of the Vice President for Research, UT Austin).
2017	**Liberal Arts Honors Upper Division Scholarship** (Liberal Arts Honors, UT Austin).
2017	**Scholarship for Exchange Programs** (College of Liberal Arts, UT Austin).

Service

Conference work

Organizing Committee	23rd Stony Brook, Yale, New York University, City University of New York Linguistics Conference (2023)
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 3rd Annual Pride Month Wikipedia Edit-a-thon (2023)
Organizer	Linguistic Society of America Committee on Gender Equity in Linguistics Wikipedia Edit-a-thon (2023)
Facilitator	STeW: Speech Technology Workshop at Yale (2023)
Organizer	Yale Indigenous People's Day Wikipedia Edit-a-thon (2022)
Facilitator	Professionalization workshop for Yale linguistics undergrads
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

2023	Panãra (Jê). Panãra Indigenous Land, states of Mato Grosso and Pará, Brazil; Participant observation, sociolinguistic documentation, text recording.
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

2022-Pres.	Association for Linguistic Typology
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)

Non-research Projects

- "What languages do Yale linguists work on?": A geographical map of Yale University's linguistics department's interests

- [Themed terms](): Crowdsourced wordlists by semantic domain

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

Programming and markup languages

Python, Proficient
R, Proficient
LATEX, Proficient
HTML5, Proficient
JavaScript, Proficient
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