Alexandra Shikunova

STUDENT & RESEARCHER IN LINGUISTICS · NLP ENGINEER

HSE University, Staraya Basmannaya Ulitsa 21/4, Moscow, Russia

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Education

HSE University   *Moscow, Russia*

MA IN LINGUISTIC THEORY AND LANGUAGE DESCRIPTION   *2024–2026*

- Research advisor: Pavel Rudnev, PhD

HSE University   *Moscow, Russia*

BA IN FUNDAMENTAL AND COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS   *2020–2024*

- BA thesis: Autosegmental Representations Behind Quality-Sensitive Stress
- Research advisor: Pavel Rudnev, PhD
- Co-advisor: Noam Faust, PhD (Université Paris 8)

Professional Experience

since 2023	**NLP engineer**, Sberbank
since 2021	**Research assistant**, HSE Laboratory in Formal Models in Linguistics
2022–2023	**Data scientist**, Megafon
2022	**Machine learning & big data intern**, Megafon

Publications

PUBLISHED

Shikunova, A. 2024. Quality-conditioned stress as length: glide epenthesis in Moksha. Submitted to Radical: A Journal of Phonology, 6, 31–73 [pdf]

Shikunova, A. 2023. There is no small clause in Russian phrasal comparatives. In Proceedings of ConSOLE XXXI, P. 134–150. [pdf]

Shikunova, A. 2023. Case and agreement puzzle in the Moksha debitive. In Journal of Uralic Linguistics, Vol. 2. No. 2. P. 194–213. [link]

Shikunova, A. 2022. Mermaid construction: a case of Kazym Khanty. In Proceedings of ConSOLE XXX, P. 89–101. [pdf]

Shikunova, A. & Rudnev, P.. 2022. Idioms, NP position and control: Evidence from Russian. In Typology of Morphosyntactic Parameters 2022. Vol. 5. No. 1. P. 91–106. [pdf]

Awards

2023	**Second place in HSE Student Research Paper Competition**, HSE University
2022	**Third place in HSE Student Research Paper Competition**, HSE University

Presentations

INVITED TALKS

Shikunova, A. 2024. Forest Nenets monosyllabic shortening. Invited talk: Atelier de phonologie (SFL, CNRS & Université Paris 8) **Shikunova, A**. 2023. The three faces of Kazym Khanty schwa. Invited talk: Atelier de phonologie (SFL, CNRS & Université Paris 8)

Conference Talks

Shikunova, A.. 2024. Length neutralization in Forest Nenets. Oral presentation: 21st Conference on Typology and Grammar for Young Scholars, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Shikunova, A. & Kasenov, D.. 2024. Second thought on the form and the substance of Russian vowel reduction. Poster presentation: RFP2024, Amiens, France.

Shikunova, A.. 2024. Positional weakness versus lack of prominence: Forest Nenets vowel alternations. Oral presentation: RFP2024, Amiens, France.

Shikunova, A.. 2023. Laryngeal contrast in L2 Russian of Forest Nenets speakers. Oral presentation: 20th Conference on Typology and Grammar for Young Scholars, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Shikunova, A. & Belov, P.. 2023. Forest Nenets vowel alternations and licensing of final nuclei. Oral presentation: 20th Conference on Typology and Grammar for Young Scholars, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Shikunova, A.. 2023. The three faces of Kazym Khanty schwa. Oral presentation: WoSSP, Nantes, France.

Shikunova, A.. 2023. A case for stress as empty CVs: glide epenthesis in Moksha. Oral presentation: RFP2023, Nice, France.

Shikunova, A.. 2023. A case for stress as empty CVs: glide epenthesis in Moksha. Poster presentation: NAPhCxii, Montreal, Canada.

Shikunova, A. & Kasenov, D.. 2023. Russian iotation: length is key. Poster presentation: NAPhCxii, Montreal, Canada.

Shikunova, A.. 2023. More than a small clause: Russian adverbial comparatives. Oral presentation: ConSOLE 31, Bielefeld, Germany.

Shikunova, A. & Sidorkina, D.. 2022. Plural quantification in Kazym Khanty. Oral presentation: 19th Conference on Typology and Grammar for Young Scholars, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Shikunova, A. & Rudnev, P.. 2022. Idioms, NP position and control: evidence from Russian. Oral presentation: Typology of Morphosyntactic Parameters 2022, Moscow, Russia.

Shikunova, A. & Kasenov, D.. 2022. Stress shift in Russian prepositional phrases: A strict CV approach. Oral presentation: FDSL15, Berlin, Germany.

Shikunova, A. 2022. Case and agreement puzzle in the Moksha debitive. Oral presentation: Syntax of Uralic Languages 4, online.

Shikunova, A. 2022. Mermaid construction: a case of Kazym Khanty. Poster presentation: ConSOLE 30, online.

Teaching Experience

Summer 2023	**Stress in a lateral theory of phonology**, Eastern Generative Grammar 2023 (Novi Sad)	*Instructor*
Summer 2023	**Topics in the phonology of Uralic**, Eastern Generative Grammar 2023 (Novi Sad)	*Instructor*
Spring 2023	**Probability theory and mathematical statistics**, HSE University, linguistics BA program	*TA*
Fall 2022	**Programming in Python**, HSE University, data science minor	*TA*
Fall 2021	**Discrete mathematics**, HSE University, linguistics BA program	*TA*
2020–2023	**English as a foreign language**, Vzlyot education centre	*Tutor*

Research Experience

HSE Laboratory in Formal Models in Linguistics   *Moscow, Russia*
Advisors: Rudnev, P. & Toldova, S.   *since 2021*
- Research in formal syntax and morphophonology
- Participation in reading groups and seminars organised in the laboratory

Fieldwork Experience

Khanty (Uralic)
Kazym, Khanty-Mansi AO, Russia
Advisors: Toldova, S. & Kozlov, A.
Aug. 2021, Apr. 2022, Apr. 2024
- Syntax of constructions with non-finite adnominal clauses (mermaid constructions)
- Interpretation of number marking on negative universal quantifiers
- Vowel-zero alternations
- Interaction between relativisation and mixed A/A-bar movement

Forest Nenets (Uralic)
Kharampur, YNAO, Russia
Advisors: Toldova, S. & Kozlov, A.
Jul. 2023
- Vowel-zero alternations
- Quantitative and qualitative vowel reduction in unstressed positions

Moksha (Uralic)
Lesnoye Tsibaevo, Mordovia Republic, Russia
Advisors: Toldova, S. & Kozlov, A.
Sep. 2021
- Case and agreement in a dative-infinitive construction

References

HSE University
- **Pavel Rudnev** — pasha.rudnev at gmail dot com
- **Svetlana Toldova** — toldova at yandex dot com

Université Paris 8
- **Noam Faust** — noam.faust at univ-paris8 dot fr

Additional education

2023	**V-NYI #6 Winter School in Linguistics, Cognitive and Cultural Studies**, Advanced courses on phonology and syntax
2022	**Winter school of HSE and KFU "Qualitative and quantitative approaches to language variation"**, Student talk: *Quantifying lexical diversity for small texts*
2022	**Summer school in Logic and Formal Philosophy of LLFP HSE**,
2022	**V-NYI #5 Summer School in Linguistics, Cognitive and Cultural Studies**, Advanced courses on phonology and syntax
2022	**V-NYI #4 Winter School in Linguistics, Cognitive and Cultural Studies**, Advanced courses on syntax and semantics

Skills

Programming & markup languages
- **Programming** Python, SQL, JavaScript for PCIbex, Praat scripting
- **Markup** TeX, Markdown

Spoken languages
- **Russian** native
- **English** proficient
- **French** intermediate
- **German, Persian, Polish** elementary