Tuğçe Nur Pekçetin

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⚲ Google Scholar Profile

Education

2017 – 2024   **PhD, Cognitive Science**, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

GPA: 3.86 | Advisor: Dr. Murat Perit Çakır | Co-advisor: Dr. Burcu Ayşen Ürgen

Thesis: *Dynamics of Mind Perception in Human-Robot Interaction: Investigating Determinants Related to the Perceiver and the Perceived Using Real-Time Implicit and Explicit Measurements*

*Granted two additional semesters for thesis studies due to the COVID-19 pandemic

2013 – 2017   **MS, Cognitive Science**, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

GPA: 3.79 | Advisor: *Dr. Cengiz Acartürk*

Thesis: *The Effects of Word Length and Suffixation on Eye Movement Control in Turkish Reading*

*On academic leave during 2013–2014 to work as a full-time instructor

2008 – 2013   **BA, Foreign Language Education**, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey | GPA: 3.60

Attended the Department of Basic English for 2008–2009 (Upper-Int. & Advanced, GPA: 88/100)

Experience

Research

Oct. 2024 – Present   **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, *Cognitive Computational Neuroscience Lab*, Aysel Sabuncu Brain Research Center, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey.

- Project: *Multisensory Contributions to the Perception, Identification and Classification of Human and Robot Actions: An Investigation into Auditory Information and Visual Contextual Cues*, PI: Dr. Tuğçe Nur Pekçetin, Advisor: Dr. Burcu Ayşen Ürgen

Sept. 2021 – **Doctoral Researcher**, *Cognitive Computational Neuroscience Lab*, Aysel Sabuncu
Sept. 2024 Brain Research Center, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey.
- Project: *How Do We Perceive Social Robots? Inter-Generational and Inter-Individual Differences in Mind Attribution to Robots*, TUBITAK Grant No: 120K913, PI: Dr. Burcu Ayşen Ürgen
- Designed and executed online and in-person experiments: collected data from approximately 750 participants in online normative studies and from 166 participants across four generations in a real-time, Wizard-of-Oz human-robot interaction study
- Coordinated the Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) group and the social robotics project, establishing a "real-world" lab with a diverse team of graduate and undergraduate students
- Documented research progress through weekly research group meetings and project progress reports
- First-authored manuscripts and published research results in top-tier conferences and journals across various domains
- Trained research assistants and interns, mentored undergraduate students, and managed administrative tasks for the lab and other affiliated ongoing projects

Sept. 2015 – **Graduate Research Assistant**, *TURead (Turkish Reading) Lab*, Graduate School
Jan. 2017 of Informatics, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey.
- Project: *The Investigation of Cognitive Processes in Reading: Development of a Corpus of Turkish Reading Patterns for Eye Movement Control Modeling*, TUBITAK Grant No: 113K723, PI: Dr. Cengiz Acartürk
- Conducted face-to-face eye-tracking experiments with over 200 participants and organized data collection across concurrent projects
- Trained new lab members and interns, and managed administrative tasks

Apr. 2015 – **Student Assistant**, *Department of Cognitive Science*, Graduate School of Infor-
Sept. 2015 matics, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey.
- Annotated lexical items according to their morphological properties for a TUBITAK project (Grant No: 113K723), PI: Dr. Cengiz Acartürk
- Annotated eye tracking data for analyses of eye movements in a published journal article (DOI: 10.1080/00220973.2016.1143793).

Apr. 2015 – **Linguistic Annotator**, *METU Corpora Research Group*, Graduate School of Infor-
Sept. 2015 matics, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey.
- Project: *Enriching Turkish Discourse Bank: Annotating Implicit Connectives*, METU BAP Grant No: BAP-07-04-2015-004, PI: Dr. Deniz Zeyrek Bozşahin
- Annotated implicit discourse connectives and entity relations in METU Turkish Corpus

Teaching

Sept. 2021 – **Instructor**, *Department of Translation and Interpretation*, Başkent University,
June 2022 Ankara, Turkey.
- Taught English Grammar and Reading and Writing Skills in English I & II courses to 1st year undergraduate students as a part-time instructor

Sept. 2013 – **Instructor**, *Department of Foreign Languages*, University of Turkish Aeronautical
Sept. 2014 Association, Ankara, Turkey.
- As a full-time instructor, taught Main Course (English grammar and vocabulary) and Skills Courses (reading and writing in English) to undergraduate students of various levels and international graduate students

Nov. 2017 – **Linguistic Evaluator**, *Unbabel*, Remote.
Present
- Current: Evaluate the overall quality of translations (EN-TR) and the performance of editors
- Past: Provided monthly tips and recommendations for editors

Dec. 2016 – **Linguistic Annotator**, *Unbabel*, Remote.
Present
- Current: Identify errors in human/machine-translated texts (EN-TR) and classify them according to a given typology
- Past: Provided general linguistic consultancy including guideline preparations, translation memory/glossary translations and validations

Feb. 2014 – **Content Assessor and Annotator**, *Yandex*, Remote.
Feb. 2016
- Evaluated the accuracy of web page responses to specific search queries
- Wrote annotations to guide assessors' evaluations

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

[J3] Acartürk, C., Özkan, A., **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Ormanoğlu, Z., & Kırkıcı, B. (2024). TURead: An eye movement dataset of Turkish reading. *Behavior Research Methods*, 56, 1793–1816. DOI: 10.3758/s13428-023-02120-6

[J2] **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Evsen, Ş., Pekçetin, S., Acarturk, C., & Urgen, B. A. (2023). A Naturalistic Setup for Presenting Real People and Live Actions in Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience Studies. *Journal of Visualized Experiments*, (198), e65436. DOI: 10.3791/65436

[J1] Ürgen, B. A., & **Pekçetin, T. N.** (2023). İnsan-robot etkileşimine zihin algısı özelinde bilişsel bilimler penceresinden bakış. *Nesne Psikoloji Dergisi*, 11(29), 437-448. DOI: 10.7816/nesne-11-29-06

Preprints

[P1] **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Aşkın, G., Evsen, Ş., Karaduman, T. D., Barinal, B., Tunç, J., Acartürk, C., & Urgen, B. A. (2025). HR-ACT (Human-Robot Action) Database: Communicative and Noncommunicative Action Videos Featuring a Human and a Humanoid Robot. OSF Preprints. DOI:10.31234/osf.io/jxy9w$_v$2

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers

[C6] Özsu, A. B., **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Faydalı, D. Ş., & Urgen, B. A. (2025, March). Distraction by a Human or a Robot: Effects of Perceptual Load and Action Type. In *Companion of the 2025 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction* (pp. 1171–1175). DOI: 10.5555/3721488.3721640

[C5] **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Evsen, Ş., Pekçetin, S., Acarturk, C., & Urgen, B. A. (2024, July). Mind Perception at Play: Exploring Agent and Action Dynamics in Real-Time Human-Robot Interaction. In *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. URL: escholarship.org/uc/item/0q88x866

[C4] **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Evsen, Ş., Pekçetin, S., Acarturk, C., & Urgen, B. A. (2024, March). Real-World Implicit Association Task for Studying Mind Perception: Insights for Social Robotics. In *Companion of the 2024 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction* (pp. 837-841). DOI: 10.1145/3610978.3640706

[C3] **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Evsen, Ş., Pekçetin, S., Karaduman, T. D., Acarturk, C., & Urgen, B. A. (2024, March). A Naturalistic Laboratory Setup for Real-World HRI Studies. In *Companion of the 2024 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction* (pp. 1296-1298). DOI: 10.1145/3610978.3641113

[C2] **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Acarturk, C., & Urgen, B. A. (2024, March). Investigating Mind Perception in HRI through Real-Time Implicit and Explicit Measurements. In *Companion of the 2024 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction* (pp. 139-141). DOI: 10.1145/3610978.3638366

[C1] **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Barinal, B., Tunç, J., Acarturk, C., & Urgen, B. A. (2023, March). Studying mind perception in social robotics implicitly: The need for validation and norming. In *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction* (pp. 202-210). DOI: 10.1145/3568162.3577001

Refereed Conference, Symposium, and Workshop Presentations

[Symp. 8] **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Kıylıoğlu K., Robinson M. N., Uçar H. U., & Ürgen, B. A. (2025). When Actions Meet Context: Exploring Visual and Auditory Cues in Human-Robot Action Perception *11th International Symposium on Brain and Cognitive Science*, June 1, 2025, İstanbul, Turkey **[*Poster*]**.

[Symp. 7] Çınar G., **Pekçetin, T. N.**, & Ürgen, B. A. (2025). Implicit Minds, Explicit Judgments: How Actor and Action Type Affect Mind Attribution in Human-Robot Interaction. *11th International Symposium on Brain and Cognitive Science*, June 1, 2025, İstanbul, Turkey **[*Poster*]**.

[Symp. 6] **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Evsen, Ş., Pekçetin, S., Acarturk, C., & Urgen, B. A. (2024). Depends on Who Does What! Real-time Implicit and Explicit Measurements of Agent and Action Effects on Mind Perception. *10th International Symposium on Brain and Cognitive Science*, June 1, 2024, Ankara, Turkey **[*Poster*]**.

[Conf. 2] **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Aşkın, G., Evsen, S., Eroğlu, A., Karaduman, T., Erdil, D., Barinal, B., Tunç, J., & Ürgen, B. A. (2023). A Set of Communicative and Noncommunicative Action Video Stimuli for Human-Robot Interaction Research. *COGSCI 2023, 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, July 26-29, 2023 (Virtual) **[*Poster*]**.

[Meeting 2] **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Aşkın, G., Evsen, S., Eroğlu, A., Karaduman, T., Erdil, D., Barinal, B., Tunç, J., Boran, B., Ürgen, B.A. (2022). A Stimulus Set of Communicative and Noncommunicative Actions for Human-Robot Interaction Research. *METU III Open Research Day*, June 17, 2022, Ankara, Turkey **[*Poster*] ⚕–*Best Poster Award***.

[Symp. 5] **Pekçetin, T. N.**, Aşkın, G., Evsen, S., Eroğlu, A., Karaduman, T., Erdil, D., Barinal, B., Tunç, J., Boran, B., & Ürgen, B. A. (2022). A Stimulus Set of Communicative and Noncommunicative Actions for Human-Robot Interaction Research. *8th International Symposium on Brain and Cognitive Science*, May 29, 2022 (Virtual) **[*Poster*]**.

[Congr. 1] **Bozkurt, T. N.**, Özge, D. (2019). Türkçede Niceleyicilerin Anlamlandırılma Süreçleri. *33. Ulusal Dilbilim Kurultayı* (33rd National Linguistics Congress), May 9-10, 2019, Mersin, Turkey **[Oral Presentation]**.

[Symp. 4] **Bozkurt, T. N.**, Çakır, M. P. (2019). Identifying Real and Fake News: A Mouse Tracking Investigation. *6th International Symposium on Brain and Cognitive Science*, April 28, 2019, İstanbul, Turkey. **[Poster]**.

[Meeting 1] **Bozkurt, T. N.**, Çakır, M. P. (2019). Identifying Real and Fake News: A Mouse Tracking Investigation. *METU II Open Research Day*, May 17, 2019, Ankara, Turkey **[Poster]** ⚲–**Worthy of Mention Award**.

[Conf. 1] **Bozkurt, T. N.** (2019). An Investigation on the Forms of Negation in Turkish: Towards a Formal Representation. *Boğaziçi University Student Conference on Theoretical and Experimental Linguistics*, February 15-16, İstanbul, Turkey **[Poster]**.

[Symp. 3] Ormanoğlu, Z., Acartürk, C., Özkan, A., Kılıç, Ö., **Bozkurt, T. N.** (2018). Perceptual Span in Turkish Reading: A Study on Parafoveal Information Intake. *5th International Symposium on Brain and Cognitive Science*, May 6, 2018, İstanbul, Turkey **[Poster]**.

[Symp. 2] Acartürk, C., Kırkıcı, B., Kılıç Ö., Özkan, A., **Bozkurt, T. N.**, Ormanoğlu Z., Göl, A. Y. (2017). The Investigation of Cognitive Processes in Reading: Development of a Corpus of Turkish Reading Patterns for Eye Movement Control Modeling. *4th International Symposium on Brain and Cognitive Science*, April 30, 2017, Ankara, Turkey **[Poster]**.

[Workshop 1] Acartürk, C., Özkan, A., **Bozkurt, T. N.** (2016). Reading in Agglutinative Languages: Silent Reading and Oral Reading in Turkish. *7th Scandinavian Workshop on Eye Tracking*, June 19-21, 2016, Turku, Finland **[Oral Presentation]**.

[Symp. 1] Özkan, A., **Bozkurt, T. N.**, Acartürk, C. (2016). Reading in Agglutinative Languages: Silent Reading and Oral Reading in Turkish. *3rd International Symposium on Brain and Cognitive Science*, May 8, 2016, İstanbul, Turkey **[Poster]**.

Invited Talks and Events

T5 **Speaker**, "Dynamics of Mind Perception in Human-Robot Interaction: A Real-Time Implicit and Explicit Investigation" *organized by CONTACT (COgNiTive Architecture for Collaborative Technologies) Unit, Italian Institute of Technology (IIT)* November 13, 2024, Genova, Italy.

T4 **Speaker**, "Dynamics of Mind Perception in Human-Robot Interaction: A Cognitive Science Perspective" *Bilkent University Psychology Department Colloquium* organized by *Department of Psychology, Bilkent University*, October 18, 2024, Ankara, Turkey.

T3 **Speaker**, "Dynamics of Mind Perception in Human-Robot Interaction: Real-Time Implicit and Explicit Investigations across Four Generations" *MIRRORLab Speaker Series 2024* organized by *the Mines Interactive Robotics Research Lab, Department of Computer Science, Colorado School of Mines*, June 26, 2024 (Virtual).

T2 **Speaker**, "Ph.D. research in Human-Robot Interaction: Studying Mind Perception in the Context of Social Robotics" *COGS Research Club* organized by *METU Cognitive Science Department*, August 1, 2023, Ankara, Turkey.

E1 **Panelist**, "Studying Cognitive Science in Turkey - METU Cognitive Science Master's & PhD Program Introduction" *Fundamentals of Cognitive Science Summer School #2* organized by *CogIST*, July 22, 2022 (Virtual).

T1 **Award Recipient and Speaker**, "A Stimulus Set of Communicative and Non-communicative Actions for Human-Robot Interaction Research" *METU III Open Research Day Award Ceremony* organized by *METU Graduate School of Informatics*, June 24, 2022, Ankara, Turkey.

Grants/Scholarships/Fellowships

Feb. 2025 **Fulbright Postdoctoral Program Scholarship**
Field: Cognitive Science, Human-Robot Interaction

*Granted a research scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year to conduct research in the USA

Sept. 2024 **TUBITAK 2218 - National Postdoctoral Research Fellowship**
Field: Human-Robot Interaction, Action Perception

Feb. 2024 – **TUBITAK 2250 Performance-Based Scholarships Programme for PhD**
July 2024 2024 Period 2

May 2021 – **TUBITAK 1001 Program Doctoral Fellowship**
Sept. 2024 Field: Human-Robot Interaction, Mind Perception

July 2024 **2224-A Grant Program for Participation in Scientific Meetings Abroad** for participation in the CogSci 2024, the 46th Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society in Rotterdam, The Netherlands

March 2024 **ACM HRI'24 Pioneers Travel Grants**, for participation in the HRI 2024 Pioneers Workshop within the 19th Annual ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) in Boulder, Colorado

Aug. 2023 – **TUBITAK 2250 Performance-Based Scholarships Programme for PhD**
Jan. 2024 2024 Period 1

Dec. 2023 **Erasmus+ KA131 Short-Term Doctoral Traineeship Grant**

March 2023 **TUBITAK Travel Grant**, for participation in 18th Annual ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) in Stockholm, Sweden

2017 – 2021 **100/2000 CoHE Doctoral Scholarship** Field: Human-Computer Interaction

Sept. 2015 – **TUBITAK 1001 Program Master of Science Fellowship**
Jan. 2017 Field: Eye Movement Control in Reading

June 2016 **TUBITAK Travel Grant**, for participation in 7th Scandinavian Workshop on Eye Tracking, Turku, Finland

2008 – 2013 **The Prime Minister's Scholarship**, awarded for a high ranking in the University Entrance Exam

Recognition/Awards

August 2025 **Best PhD Thesis Award** in the Category of Contribution to Scientific Advancement, Middle East Technical University Graduate School of Informatics

March 2025 **Outstanding Reviewer Recognition** awarded by the Program Committee for exceptional reviewing of Full Papers, 20th ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI)

March 2024 **Human-Robot Interaction Pioneer**, selected as one of 25 participants for the annual HRI Pioneers Workshop, bringing together top student researchers, ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction

Professional Development

Traineeship **Erasmus+ KA131 Short-Term Doctoral Trainee**, *CONTACT (COgNiTive Architecture for Collaborative Technologies) Unit, Italian Institute of Technology (IIT), Host and PI: Dr. Alessandra Sciutti, November 10-23, 2024, Genova, Italy*

Organization **Program Committee Co-Chair**, *Pioneers Workshop - ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) 2025, March 4-6, 2025, Melbourne, Australia*

Session Chair, *12th Student Linguistics Conference*, April 2017, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Co-organizer and Speaker, *Workshop with Peter Gärdenfors*, May 2015, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Referee Service **Conferences**: *ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI)*: Main Track, Late Breaking Reports, Demos and Videos Track; *The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci)*

Journals: *ACM Transactions on Human-Robot Interaction*

Professional Membership **Member**, *The ACM Special Interest Group on Computer-Human Interaction (SIGCHI)*, November 2024 - present

Student Member, *Cognitive Science Society (CSS)*, May 2020 - present

Volunteer Service **Student Volunteer**, *ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) 2024*, March 11-15, Boulder, Colorado, USA

Student Assistant, *2nd International Symposium on Brain and Cognitive Science (ISBCS 2015)*, April 2015, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Student Assistant, *16th International Conference on Turkish Linguistics (ICTL 2012)*, September 2012, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Student Teacher: *Gören Eller Primary School*, Sept. 2012 - Jan. 2013, Ankara, Turkey. Taught English to 6th grade students with visual impairment as part of the Community Service Program

Mentorship **Postdoc Supervisor**: *Gizem Çınar*, Senior Thesis, 2024-2025, Bilkent University.

Graduate Supervisor: *Ayaz Karadağ*, Senior Thesis, 2023-2024, Bilkent University.

Internship **Teaching Intern**: *Bilişim College*, Feb. 2013 - June 2013, Ankara, Turkey. Taught 4th and 6th grade students

	Teaching Intern: *METU Development Foundation Schools*, Sept. 2012 - Jan. 2013, Ankara, Turkey. Taught 6th and 7th grade students
Training	**Attendee**, *EEG Course for Beginners: One-day training course in EEG data collection and analysis*, December 2018, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey
	Attendee, *String Ventures Bootcamp*, July 2016, ODTÜ Teknokent, Ankara, Turkey
	Attendee, *Lean Entrepreneurship Training*, June 2016, ODTÜ Teknokent, Ankara, Turkey
	Attendee, *UTAA Teacher Learning and Professional Development Programme*, May 2014, University of Turkish Aeronautical Association, Ankara, Turkey

Skills

Programming and Analysis	R, MATLAB, SPSS, JASP, MouseTracker, Data Viewer, Experiment Builder
Software	LaTeX, Microsoft Office, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, Canva
Robotics	Pepper Robot (programming, interaction, behavior design), Pepper SDK (QiSDK) for Android
Tools	Android Studio, Eyelink 1000 & 1000 Plus
Languages	Turkish (native), English (professional working proficiency)