UĞURCAN VURGUN

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

language and event cognition; language processing, biomedical informatics; autism interventions

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia *2019 - 2024*
Ph.D. in Linguistics (Language Processing and Event Cognition)
Department of Linguistics
Thesis Title: From Words to Worlds: Telicity and the Malleability of Event Representations
Thesis Supervisor: Anna Papafragou
Interdisciplinary graduate certificate in Language and Communication Sciences (LCS)

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia *2023 - 2025*
Master of Science (MS) in Biomedical Informatics
Institute for Biomedical Informatics

Boğaziçi University, Istanbul *2015 - 2019*
Master of Arts (MA) in Linguistics
Department of Linguistics
Thesis Title: The Syntax of Focus Particles in Turkish
Thesis Supervisors: Mine Nakipoğlu, A. Sumru Özsoy

Koç University, Istanbul *2002 - 2007*
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Business Administration
College of Administrative Sciences and Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania College of Liberal and Professional Studies
LING 0001 Introduction to Linguistics *Summer 2023 & Summer 2024*
Instructor for the course

University of Pennsylvania
LING 0001 Introduction to Linguistics *Fall 2022*
Teaching Assistant for two sections
Professor: Mark Liberman

LING 001 Introduction to Linguistics *Fall 2021*
Teaching Assistant for two sections
Professor: Gareth Roberts

LING 001 Introduction to Linguistics *Spring 2021*
Teaching Assistant for two sections
Professor: Martin Salzmann

The Wharton School
MGMT 8920 Advanced Study Program - Collaborative Innovation Program *Spring 2024*
Teaching Assistant for four project teams (MBA/WEMBA students)
Professor: Xu (Henry) Han

MGMT 8920 Advanced Study Program - Collaborative Innovation Program   *Fall 2023*
Teaching Assistant for four project teams (MBA/WEMBA students)
Professor: Scott Snyder

Boğaziçi University, Istanbul
LING 101 Introduction to Linguistics   *Fall 2018*
Teaching Assistant
Professor: Mine Nakipoğlu

PUBLICATIONS

Vurgun, U., Ji, Y., & Papafragou, A. (2024). Aspectual processing shifts visual event apprehension. *Cognitive Science, 48*(6), e13476.

Li, C., Mowery, D. L., Ma, X., Yang, R., **Vurgun, U.**, Hwang, S., Donnelly, H. K., Bandhey, H., Akhtar, Z., Senathirajah, Y., Sadhu, E. M., Getzen, E., Freda, P. J., Long, Q., Becich, M. J. (2024). Realizing the potential of social determinants data: A scoping review of approaches for screening, linkage, extraction, analysis, and interventions. *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science.*

Vurgun, U. (2019). The syntax of focus particles in Turkish. Unpublished master's thesis, Boğaziçi University. Advisors: Dr. H. Mine Nakipoğlu & Dr. A. Sumru Özsoy.

Vurgun, U. (2018). Book review - Contemporary Morphological Theories: A User's Guide. Thomas W. Stewart, 2015. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. 192 pages. ISBN 978 07 486 9268 2. *Journal of Linguistic Research*, 29(2), 129-137.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Vurgun, U., Ji, Y., & Papafragou, A. (2024). Detecting event construal shifts in aspectual coercion. Proceedings from the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

Vurgun, U., Heesu, Y., Landau, B., & Trueswell, J. (2024). Real-time processing of symmetrical predicates: Semantic categorization over time. Proceedings from the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

Vurgun, U., Ji, Y., & Papafragou, A. (2023). Cognitive signatures of aspectual coercion. Proceedings from the 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

Vurgun, U., Ji, Y., & Papafragou, A. (2022). Linguistic aspect constrains event apprehension. Proceedings from the 44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Vurgun, U., Ji, Y., & Papafragou, A. (2024). Detecting event construal shifts in aspectual coercion. Oral presentation at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Vurgun, U., Heesu, Y., Landau, B., & Trueswell, J. (2024). Real-time processing of symmetrical predicates: Semantic categorization over time. Poster presentation at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Vurgun, U., Ji, Y., & Papafragou, A. (2024). Aspectual Coercion: A New Method to Probe Aspectual Commitments. Oral presentation at the Experiments in Linguistic Meaning (ELM) Conference, University of Pennsylvania.

Vurgun, U., Ji, Y., & Papafragou, A. (2024). Aspectual Coercion: A New Method to Probe Aspectual Commitments. Poster presentation at the 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Vurgun, U., Yun, H., Landau, B., & Trueswell, J. (2024). Symmetrical or not?: A new method to probe real-time semantic categorization. Poster presentation at the 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Vurgun, U., Ji, Y., & Papafragou, A. (2024). Cognitive signatures of aspectual coercion. Poster presentation at the 10th Mid-Atlantic Colloquium of Studies in Meaning (MACSIM), University of Maryland, College Park.

Vurgun, U., Cho, S., Fusaroli, R., Ip, M. H. K., Pelella, M. R., Knox, A., et al. (2024). Detecting Autism through Automated Speech Analysis: The Role of Model Complexity and Dataset Balance. Poster presentation at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Melbourne, Australia.

Vurgun, U., Cho, S., Fusaroli, R., Ip, M. H. K., Pelella, M. R., Knox, A., Schillinger, S., Hauptmann, A., Covello, M., Madya, M., Lyons, M., Lee, A., Fulop, L., Adeniyi, H., Russell, A., Hicks, G., Anello, O., Walker, K., Fiumara, J., Tunç, B., Sariyanidi, E., Liberman, M., Schultz, R. T., & Parish-Morris, J. (2024). Detecting Autism through Automated Speech Analysis: The Role of Model Complexity and Dataset Balance. Poster presentation at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Melbourne, Australia.

Kaviyarasu, A., **Vurgun, U.**, Hwang, S., Acevedo, A., Mowery, D. L., Abella, B. S., & Mitchell, O. J. L. (2024). Leveraging large language models to optimize clinical text analysis for in-hospital cardiac arrest identification. Poster presentation at the Department of Medicine Research Day, University of Pennsylvania.

Cho, S., **Vurgun, U.**, Fusaroli, R., Ip, M. H. K., Pelella, M. R., Knox, A., Hauptmann, A., Covello, M., Madya, M., Lyons, M., Lee, A., Fulop, L., Schillinger, S., Russell, A., Hicks, G., Walker, K., Fiumara, J., Chatham, C., Liberman, M., Schultz, R. T., & Parish-Morris, J. (2024). Stable Acoustic Differences between Autistic and Neurotypical Children: A Longitudinal Telephony Study. Oral presentation at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Melbourne, Australia.

Cho, S., **Vurgun, U.**, Fusaroli, R., Ip, M. H. K., Pelella, M. R., Knox, A., Hauptmann, A., Covello, M., Madya, M., Lyons, M., Lee, A., Fulop, L., Russell, A., Hicks, G., Fiumara, J., Pandey, J., Tunç, B., Sariyanidi, E., Liberman, M., Schultz, R. T., & Parish-Morris, J. (2024). Automatically-derived Lexical Features Distinguish Autistic Teens from Neurotypical Peers and Teens with Other Psychiatric Conditions in a Natural Conversation Task. Oral presentation at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Melbourne, Australia.

Ip, Martin H. K., Putnam, O., Cho, S., **Vurgun, U.**, Lyons, M., Knox, A., Hauptmann, A., Covello, M., Madya, M., Adeniyi, H., Hicks, G., Anello, O., Walker, K., Fiumara, J., Cieri, C., Fusaroli, R., Chatham, C., Liberman, M., Schultz, R. T., Parish-Morris, J. (2024). Prosodic similarities and variation in autistic and neurotypical children: A telephone-based study of verbal counting. Oral presentation at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting, Melbourne, Australia.

Vurgun, U., Cho, S., Fusaroli, R., Ip, M. H. K., Pelella, M. R., Knox, A., Hauptmann, A., Covello, M., Madya, M., Lyons, M., Lee, A., Schillinger, S., Fulop, L., Adeniyi, H., Russell, A., Fiumara, J., Hicks, G., Anello, O., Walker, K., Tunç, B., Sariyanidi, E., Liberman, M., Schultz, R. T., & Parish-Morris, J. (2024). Automatic classification of autism using automatic speech recognition and large language models (LLMs). Poster presentation at Meeting on Language and Autism, Durham, NC.

Cho, S., **Vurgun, U.**, Fusaroli, R., Ip, M. H. K., Pelella, M.R., Knox, A., Hauptmann, A., Covello, M., Madya, M., Lyons, M., Lee, A., Schillinger, S., Fulop, L., Russell, A., Hicks, G., Fiumara, J., Pandey, J., Tunç, B., Sariyanidi, V., Liberman, M., Schultz, R. T., & Parish-Morris, J. (2024). Autistic teens' word choice differs from neurotypical peers and teens with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in a natural conversation task. Poster presentation at Meeting on Language and Autism, Durham, NC.

Ip, M. H. K., Putnam, O. C., Cho, S., **Vurgun, U.**, Lyons, M., Knox, A., Hauptmann, A., Covello,

M., Fulop, L., Russell, A., Walker, K., Miller, J., Fiumara, J., Fusaroli, R., Chatham, C., Cieri, C., Lee, A., Liberman, M., Schultz, R. T., & Parish-Morris, J. (2024). Does speech prosody differ in a socially unengaging task? Preliminary findings from autistic and non-autistic children's verbal counting. Poster presentation at Meeting on Language in Autism, Durham, NC.

Vurgun, U., Ji, Y., & Papafragou, A. (2023). Aspectual processing and event perception. Poster presentation at the 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of Pittsburgh.

Vurgun, U., Ji, Y., & Papafragou, A. (2023). Lexical aspect maps onto event apprehension. Poster presentation at the 9th Mid-Atlantic Colloquium of Studies in Meaning (MACSIM), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Vurgun, U., Ji, Y., & Papafragou, A. (2023). Aspectual framing of events shifts online event apprehension. Poster presentation at at the 98th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Denver, CO.

Vurgun, U., Ji, Y., & Papafragou, A. (2022). Lexical aspect maps onto event apprehension. Oral presentation at the 2nd Experiments in Linguistic Meaning Conference, University of Pennsylvania.

Vurgun, U. (2020). Both locative alternation variants in Turkish are change-of-state predicates with ResultPs. Oral presentation at the 4th Conference of Central Asian Language and Linguistics, Indiana University.

Vurgun, U. (2019). A lexical-typological approach explaining the limited existence of locative alternation in Turkish. Poster presentation at the 4th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+4), NYU.

REVIEWING

Folia Linguistica

CogSci (The Annual Conference of Cognitive Science Society)

Journal of Clinical and Translational Science

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania   2019 - 2024

University of Pennsylvania, Language and Communication Sciences Research Fund 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

University of Pennsylvania, Integrated Language Sciences and Technology Research Fund 2022, 2023, 2024

Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI) Travel Award   2024

The 48th Annual Boston University Conference On Language Development, Diversity Travel Award   2023

University of Pennsylvania, GAPSA Research Travel Grant   2022

University of Pennsylvania, SAS Dean's Travel Subvention   2022

Boğaziçi University, Research Travel Grant   2019

Vehbi Koç Fellowship, Koç University   2002 - 2007

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming & Analysis	R, Python, PyTorch, TensorFlow, SQL, JavaScript
Machine Learning	Scikit-learn, Keras, XGBoost
Large Language Models	HuggingFace Transformers
	- Fine-tuning: Transfer learning, Few-shot learning
	- Advanced techniques: Prompt engineering, PEFT, LoRA
	- Deployment: Model compression, Quantization
Software & Tools	Eye Tracking (Tobii), PCIbex, PsychoPy
Statistical Analysis	Mixed-effects modeling, Time series analysis
Linguistic Tools	TalkBank, NLTK, spaCy
Version Control	Git, GitHub
Data Visualization	ggplot2, matplotlib
Database Management	SQL, MySQL, Database Design
Web Development	JavaScript, HTML, CSS
Cloud Platforms	Microsoft Azure, Databricks

EMPLOYMENT

Unilever Turkey
Various Roles, Including Channel and Category Development Manager 2008 - 2018

- Progressed through multiple roles over a 10-year tenure, demonstrating consistent growth and adaptability in sales, marketing, and management positions.

- Developed and executed strategic promotional plans, resulting in increased sales, improved category penetration, and optimized promotional spending across multiple product lines.

- Led large cross-functional teams (200+ employees) across multiple regions, fostering a performance-driven culture and achieving significant improvements in turnover, market share, and profitability.

- Implemented data-driven strategies for product placement, pricing, and distribution, enhancing brand visibility and market presence.

- Collaborated with key stakeholders to create and execute joint business plans, aligning company objectives with customer and distributor goals.

- Demonstrated expertise in market research, business insights, and statistical modeling to inform strategic decision-making and drive business growth.

Key Skills: Strategic Planning, Team Leadership, Sales & Marketing Strategy, Market Analysis, Performance Optimization, Stakeholder Management, Trade Marketing, Supply Chain Management

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

American Psychological Association May 2024 - Present
Member

· Division 7: Developmental Psychology
· Division 33: Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorder

Wharton Founders' Club Oct 2023 - Present
Member

Family Resource Center, University of Pennsylvania Sep 2019 - Jun 2020
Student Parent Advisory Board Member