

# Yangchen Roy

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**Broad research interests:** theoretical morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, language cognition – acquisition and processing, language documentation and archiving, early language pedagogy, research workers’ rights

**Specific research interests:** reference resolution, short and long-distance referential dependencies, anaphor-antecedent agreement and controller-target agreement, nominal building features, licensing context-dependent features, operations at the periphery of syntactic spines.

**Doctoral work:** It explores reflexive and pronominal anaphora computation from a recent generative perspective by investigating the division of labour between the narrow syntax, the C-I interface, the morphological arm of the grammar, and general cognition. To do so, I use secondary linguistic data, fresh native speaker judgements, novel adult processing data and child language acquisition data from two genealogically unrelated but geographically related languages, Bangla (Indo-Aryan) and Malayalam (Dravidian). (Email me for a copy)

## CURRENT POSITION

May 2023 – date      Project Associate (Linguistics), the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India  
I work with Prof. Ramesh C Gaur on making recommendations to the Government of India on the India implementation of the UNESCO Global Action Plan for the UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL) 2022-2032

## ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

2016 – March 2023 (Defence awaited)	Doctoral candidate in Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Doctoral Advisor: Prof Ayesha Kidwai GPA 8.25 on 9 (coursework) Title: Exploring anaphora binding and its acquisition: The view from Bangla and Malayalam
June 2016	Master of Arts in Linguistics, JNU (GPA 8.37 on 9)
Dec 2015	Assistant Professorship qualification in Linguistics via the University Grants Commission (UGC), Govt of India National Eligibility Test (NET) in Linguistics
Dec 2015	Diplôme Étude en Langue Française (DELF) B1 Ministère de l’éducation nationale de l’Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche
June 2014	Advanced Diploma in French, The English and Foreign Languages University (EFL-U), Hyderabad ( <i>Grade A Plus</i> )
June 2014	Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in English, EFL-U, Hyderabad (GPA 8.46 on 9)

## FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

July 2016	UGC Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) via NET in Linguistics
June 2014	University First Rank Holder of the BA (Hon.) English Programme at EFL-U, Hyderabad
May 2011	Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) Merit Award to top 1.5% KVS students in CBSE-AISSCE 2011

## TEACHING

Jan – May 2022	LNG 201 “Phonology” (MA Linguistics) at Deccan College Post Graduate & Research Institute
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Sep – Jan 2020	LE 321L “Introduction to Linguistics” (Undergraduate course) at JNU
Jan – May 2019	TA to Ayesha Kidwai for LE 487L “Generative Syntax I” (MA Linguistics) at JNU
Sep 2017 – June 2019	Volunteer English teacher, Unnoticed: The children of JNU Construction Workers (Grades IX, X, XI, XII)
June 2012	Volunteer para-teacher, Tomorrow’s Foundation (TF) Model School, Kolkata (Pre-primary section)

## WORKSHOPS TAUGHT

Feb 2020	<i>Growing language: A workshop on language acquisition research from a generative perspective</i> , at JNU (with Benu Pareek)  Introduced students to the basics of language acquisition research, including types of data elicitation techniques, types of material/equipment/tools for data collection, experiment design and execution, tools for transcription and analysis of data, and ethical considerations of working with underage participants.
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## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer reviewed/Refereed journal articles

October 2022	“The neglect of researchers during the first COVID-19 pandemic induced national lockdown in India: Inside the lives of JNU’s research scholars” (with Alamu R & Somashree Das), <i>Higher Education</i> , Springer, ISSN: 0018-1560. DOI <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s10734-022-00927-4">https://doi.org/10.1007/s10734-022-00927-4</a>
Dec 2017	“Gaddi Case” (co-authored with Prativa Chakraborty), <i>Jadavpur Journal of Language and Linguistics</i> , Vol. 1 (No. 2), p. 008-020, ISSN: 2581-494X
Feb 2016	“Bangla Negative Polarity Items: A Detailed Study” (with Diti Bhadra, Bidisha Bhattacharya and Madhumanti Dutta), in <i>Indian Linguistics</i> , Vol.77 (Nos.1-2), p. 79-102, ISSN: 0378-0759.

### Book chapters

April 2022	“Child Language Acquisition: Cross-linguistic Evidence for Universal Grammar” in <i>Language, Mind, Society: A Reader for Students of Language and Education</i> (with Ayesha Kidwai and Benu Pareek), Eds. Rama Kant Agnihotri and Rajesh Kumar, Orient Blackswan Private Limited (ISBN: 978-93-5442-058-0)
Accepted	“Knowing and learning Hindi and Bangla in early childhood: Inputs from acquisition,” in <i>From Principles to Praxis: How linguistic theories interact with language learning and pedagogy</i> (with Ayesha Kidwai and Benu Pareek) Eds. Minati Panda, Suneeta Mishra, and Judit Baranyiné Kóczy, Springer. (Email me for a pre-print copy)

### Books

Under review	<i>A Grammar of Gaddi</i> (with Anjali Nair, Anusuya Nayak, Preeti Kumari and Vyom Sharma), Grammars of World and Minority Languages Series, University College London Press (most of the book content is <a href="#">here</a> )
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### Conference proceedings

February 2022	“On the context layer of Bangla pronouns” in (F)ASAL 10 proceedings in <i>the Journal of South Asian Linguistics (JSAL)</i> , ISSN: 1947-8232
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### Manuscripts

Feb 2019	“Gaddi Syntax” (with Prativa Chakraborty, Pinki Kumari, Preeti Kumari and Vyom Sharma), <a href="mailto:FLing@JNU">FLing@JNU</a>
Jan 2016	<i>Tense, Aspect and Mood (TAM) in Gaddi</i> , MA Field Methods report (email me for a copy)

### As Editor

- Feb 2019            Section-Editor of “[Gaddi Syntax](#)”, [FLing@JNU](#) (with Vyom Sharma)
- Feb 2019            Section-Editor of “[Gaddi Kinship and Kinship Terminology](#)”, [FLing@JNU](#)

### Linguistic fieldwork tools

- Feb 2019            “[Questionnaire for eliciting pronouns, reflexives and reciprocals in South Asian languages: English-Hindi Bilingual set](#)”, [FLing@JNU](#)

### TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

#### Invited Talks

- Oct 2022            “A view of the abysmal state of research scholars’ finances during the COVID-19 pandemic”, at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP), JNU (with Alamu R and Somashree Das)
- July 2022            “On the Acquisition of the Anaphoric Possessive DP: Insights from Bangla”, at the Psycholinguistics Lab, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

#### Refereed presentations

- Upcoming            “On the acquisition of formal pronouns in Bangla” at the 18<sup>th</sup> International Pragmatics Conference, Brussels
- Nov 2022            “On the participant layer at the periphery of Spiti pronouns and reflexives” at the South Asian Language Analysis Roundtable (SALA) 36, Madan Bhandari Memorial College, Kathmandu
- Nov 2022            “On Bangla *go* and *re*” (with Nirnimesh Bhattacharjee) at SALA-36, Kathmandu
- Nov 2022            “Reference in discourse: R-expressions as pronouns in Malayalam and Bangla, and beyond” at the Interaction of formal means and functional categories in the coding of reference, Universidad de Sonora
- June 2021            “[Acquisition of Bangla pronouns and reflexives: What production in rich context tells us](#)”, at the International Association for the Study of Child Language (IASCL) 2021 Conference, University of Pennsylvania
- Apr 2020            “[Inside the world of children’s Bangla pronouns](#)” at the Zoomdemic talk series, [FLing@JNU](#)
- Mar 2020            “On the context layer of Bangla pronouns” at the (Formal) Approaches to South Asian Languages, (F)ASAL 10, Ohio State University
- Nov 2019            “What native speakers really know about their reflexives and pronouns: perusing Bangla and Malayalam” at the International Symposium on Interfaces in Generative Linguistics at South China Normal University
- Oct 2019            “Agreement in Gaddi: A distributed morphology approach” (with Vyom Sharma) at the International Conference of the Linguistics Society of India (ICOLSI) 41, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University
- July 2019            “Licensing reflexives and pronouns in Spec DP: Probing what adults know,” at the National Seminar on Linguistics and Language Sciences in India (NASLILANSI), JNU
- Apr 2019            “Mapping the variation in the anaphora licensing strategies of adult speakers of Bangla” at the Dependency in Syntactic COvariance (DISCO) workshop, Universitat Leipzig
- Jan 2017            “Gaddi Case” at the Students' Conference of Linguistics in India (SCONLI), Jadavpur University
- Oct 2015            “The Phonological Distribution of Malayalam Dative Case” (co-presented with Anjali Nair) at ICOLSI 37, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Feb 2014            “Code Switching among University Students: The impact of medium of instruction in school on the extent and nature of code switching among Bangla-English bilinguals” at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Academic Conference, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT-Madras

## FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Aug- Dec 2015	<p><b>Morphology and Syntax of Gaddi (Indo-Aryan)</b></p> <p>Method</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Multiple Hindi-Gaddi translation questionnaires for eliciting word and sentence lists</li> </ol> <p>Key learnings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Broad and Narrow IPA transcription and typing</li> <li>2. Morphological glossing</li> <li>3. Lexicography on FLEx Bridge</li> <li>4. The morphology and syntax of tense, aspect, mood, and modality</li> </ol>
Sept 2018	<p><b>Pronouns, Reflexives and Reciprocals in Spiti (Sino-Tibetan)</b></p> <p>Method</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hindi-Spiti translation questionnaire (448 items)</li> </ol> <p>Key learnings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ELAN annotation</li> <li>2. Describing and theorizing on addressee-agreeing pronominal systems</li> </ol>
Oct-Dec 2018	<p><b>Adult knowledge reflexive and pronominal anaphora (142 and 100 participants respectively)</b></p> <p>Methods</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Picture-based judgment tasks</li> <li>2. Picture-based sentence completion tasks</li> </ol> <p>Key learnings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determining independent and dependent variables in acquisition experiments</li> <li>2. Building experimental material for testing reference resolution</li> <li>3. Executing experiments online</li> </ol>
Sept 2019	<p><b>Child knowledge of reflexive and pronominal anaphora (10 adult controls, 30 children)</b></p> <p>Methods</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Structured elicitation tasks via story telling based on pictorial stimuli</li> </ol> <p>Key learnings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Building child-friendly experimental material</li> <li>2. Using interactive whiteboards for experimental setup</li> <li>3. Building sufficient context (story-telling and role-play) around target utterances</li> </ol>
Jun 2020	<p><b>Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work, finances, and mental health of researchers (530 participants)</b></p> <p>Methods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Choice-based and opened ended questions in a survey questionnaire (57 questions)</li> </ol> <p>Key learnings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inferential statistical analysis of large datasets</li> </ol>

## TECHNICAL TRAINING

### University Grants Commission of India Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) Courses

Jan 2018	<p>Topics in the Interface between Syntax, Semantics &amp; Pragmatics: Asserting, Asking &amp; Answering, University of Mumbai</p> <p>Grade: A, Credits: 2, Course Instructor: Prof. Veneeta Dayal, Rutgers University</p>
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Dec 2016 GIAN course *Syntax of Indo-Aryan languages (SIAL)*, University of Mumbai  
Grade: A, Credits: 2, Course Instructor: Prof. Rajesh Bhatt, University of Massachusetts

### Workshops & Summer Schools

May 2023 Experimental Methods in Language Acquisition Research (EMLAR) XIX 2023, Utrecht University

April 2023 Experimental Linguistics Workshop, IIT Delhi

Aug 2021 1<sup>st</sup> Truly Global/L+/Summer/Winter School on Language Acquisition, University of Potsdam, and University of Padua

Oct 2020 Many Paths to Language (MPal) Workshop 2020, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics

Feb 2020 International Workshop on Language Documentation and Digital Archiving, IGNC and College of Information, University of North Texas

July 2019 Forensic and Corpus Linguistics Workshop at NASLILANSI, JNU

Feb 2019 Workshop on Approaches to Language Variation, IIT Delhi

May 2018 Formal Studies in the Syntax and Semantics of Indian Languages (FOSSSIL) Linguistics Summer School in the Indian Mountains (LISSIM) 11, Solang Valley, HP, India  
Instructors: Susana Bejar, Tor Afarli, Ian Roberts, Michael Yoshitaka Erlewine

July 2017 Quality Improvement Programme & Continuing Education Programme (QIP-CEP) Workshop on Experimental and Empirical Methods in Linguistics, IIT Delhi  
Instructors: Eva Wittenberg, Samar Hussain, Indranil Dutta, Aswini Vaidya,

May 2017 FOSSSIL LISSIM X, Solang Valley, HP, India  
Instructors: Patrick Grosz, Mark Baker, Hagit Borer, Terje Lohndal, Tor Afarli

May 2015 FOSSSIL LISSIM 9, Solang Valley, HP India  
Instructors: Hedde Zeijlstra, Chris Collins, Utpal Lahiri

Feb 2015 Workshop “The Role of Linguistics in Mother-Tongue Education in a Multi-Lingual Classroom,” the Centre for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Jan 2015 *Roo-ba-roo*: Indian Sign Language Workshop, Jawaharlal Nehru University

### SERVICE

Jan 2017 – date **On the Field Linguistics at JNU team** co-planning of content, designing the interface and aesthetics, and maintaining and keeping the website updated.

June 2021 **A Summer Full of Stories summer camp for children aged 5-7 (co-organised with Trina Sen)** Used robust storytelling, story-making, dance, song, art, craft, and basic food preparation to better children’s language and life skills. It included theme-based days and was designed to suit an online interface and to meet the Pandemic-induced challenges facing children.

October 2019 **Co-organised SynSem@4thPot for the Delhi circle of syntacticians and semanticists** A seminar of syntacticians and semanticists from universities and institutes across Delhi for two days of debate and discussion on their current work in syntax, semantics, and its interfaces.

Sept 2017 - June 2019 **Volunteer English teacher at Unnoticed: Children of JNU construction workers** Gave after-school lessons in English to grades 9 to 12 from low-income families enrolled in Delhi’s public schools, researched post high-school academic and training options, and helped fill out college application forms.

Sept 2017 - Aug 2018 **Elected Students Faculty Committee representative of PhD scholars of the Centre for Linguistics, JNU** Presented academic and logistic problems faced by PhD researchers in official meetings with the Centre faculty and administrative staff, devised tangible solutions to research scholars’ grievances.

Sept 2017 – Aug 2018 **Elected food management representative of 250+ student residents** Designed nutrient rich, seasonal and cost-effective food menus and implemented them, kept regular checks on

	produce/ingredient quality, kitchen hygiene, campaigned for minimal food wastage.
Oct 2015	<b>On the design team of the ICOSI-37 organizing committee</b> Designed all material for the conference, including the conference logo, the abstract booklet, and conference stationary.
Feb 2015	<b>Volunteer at The Role of Linguistics in Mother-Tongue Education in a Multi-lingual Classroom</b> On the general organizing team of this seminar organized on International Mother Language Day at JNU
Dec 2014	<b>On the design team of the SFU-JNU Joint Linguistics Symposium on the Indigenous languages of Canada and India</b> Designed the logo and handled other design logistics.
June 2012	<b>Volunteer teacher at Tomorrow's Foundation Model School for children from low-income families</b> Taught English, Hindi and Mathematics to pre-primary classes. Methods included theme-based learning.

## LANGUAGES KNOWN

English, (Native and full professional fluency), Bengali/Bangla (Native fluency), Malayalam (Semi-Native fluency), Hindi (Semi-native and full professional fluency), French (Limited working fluency)

## TOOLS & SKILLS

- ELAN (advanced), Praat (intermediate), SayMore (advanced), FLEx (advanced),  $\text{\LaTeX}$  (intermediate), R (basic)
- Full proficiency in typing in IPA, Devanagari, and Bangla scripts

## REFEREES

### Prof. Ayesha Kidwai

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### Dr Utpal Lahiri

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### Prof. Sheba Victor

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