UNT Linguistics is supported by an active linguistics research community with ties across campus and with local, national, and international communities. Our faculty engage in national and international collaborative research in computational linguistics, language variation, language documentation, and language acquisition and teaching.

Contact Us:
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Questions regarding Admissions or Advising:
Advising & Admissions Office
M-F 8:00am-5:00pm
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Why Linguistics?

Linguists investigate how people acquire knowledge about language, how this knowledge interacts with other thought processes, how it varies between speakers and geographic regions, and how to model this knowledge computationally. They study how to represent the structure of various aspects of language (such as sounds or meaning), how to theoretically explain different linguistic patterns, and how different components of language interact with each other. Many linguists employ statistical analysis, mathematics, and logical formalism to account for the patterns they observe.

Linguistics is a major that provides insight into one of the most intriguing aspects of human knowledge and behavior. Majoring in linguistics means learning about many aspects of human language, including sounds (phonetics, phonology), words (morphology), sentences (syntax), and meaning (semantics). It can involve looking at how languages change over time (historical linguistics); how language varies from situation to situation, group to group, and place to place (sociolinguistics, dialectology); how people use language in context (pragmatics, discourse analysis); how to model aspects of language (computational linguistics); how people acquire or learn language (language acquisition); and how people process language (psycholinguistics, experimental linguistics).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Because of the universality of language, linguists offer a wide range of skills that are applicable in a number of fields and careers. Including:

- Language Teaching
- Education & Educational Research
- Translation/Interpretation
- Teach English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Teach a foreign language
- Teaching at the University Level
- Work in the publishing industry, as a technical writer, or as a journalist
- Consultant on language in professions such as Law or Medicine
- Language Documentation
- Fieldwork
- Computer Industry (Natural Language Processing, Artificial Intelligence, Search Engines, Etc.)
- Testing Agencies
- Government (FBI, CIA, Local)
- Voice Training
- Advertising
- Law
- Speech and Hearing Science
- Curriculum Design
- Program Administration

FACULTY

Specializations and Research Interests

Dr. Shobhana Chelliah
Language documentation of Meithei, Lamkang; structure and use of English around the world, with special emphasis on the teaching and use of English in the former British colonies

Katie Crowder
Specialization in TESOL, introductory linguistics, acquisition of ESL, ESL teacher training, designing/directing language and cultural immersion programs, designing ESL Curriculum with a focus on high-frequency idioms, analyzing the globalization of English, and documenting the influence of media and technology on language change.

Dr. Patricia Cukor-Avila
Linguistic variation and change, specifically grammatical change over time in African American English; language across the lifespan; linguistic stereotyping and accent discrimination

Dr. Konstantia Kapetangianni
Syntactic theory and comparative syntax, especially within Principles & Parameters and Minimalism. More specific interests are description and theoretical analysis of empirical phenomena that lie at the interface of morphology, syntax, and semantics.

Dr. Taraka Kasicheyanula
Computational Historical Linguistics, Treebanking for South Asian languages, Medical Informatics, and Bayesian modeling.

Dr. Sadaf Munshi
Language documentation of Burushaski (and other South Asian languages); historical and comparative linguistics, language contact

Dr. Dorian Roehrs
Morpho-syntax of the Germanic languages; Diachronic Development of the Noun Phrase; Semantics and Pragmatics of the Noun Phrase; Language documentation and analysis of Yiddish

Dr. William Salmon
Semantics and Pragmatics, Information Structure, Sociolinguistics, Varieties of English in Texas and the Caribbean

Dr. Xian Zhang
Second language acquisition, embodied cognition, language assessment, computer-aided language learning