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# Linguistics

In the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages  
In the College of Arts and Letters

**OFFICE: Business Administration 334**  
**TELEPHONE: 619-594-5268 / FAX: 619-594-4877**  
<http://www.rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/linguist/index.html>

## Faculty

Jeffrey P. Kaplan, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics, Chair of Department  
Soonja Choi, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics (Graduate Adviser)  
Jean Mark Gawron, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics  
Yoshiko Higurashi, Ph.D., Professor of Japanese  
(Director, Japanese Language Program)  
Gail L. Robinson, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics  
Robert Underhill, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics  
Eniko Csomay, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Linguistics  
Ryu Kitajima, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Japanese  
Ghada Osman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Arabic  
Deborah Poole, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Linguistics  
Betty T. R. Samraj, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Linguistics  
Ruey-Jiuan Regina Wu, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Linguistics and  
Asian/Middle Eastern Languages  
Zheng-sheng Zhang, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chinese  
Gregory D. Keating, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Linguistics  
Robert P. Malouf, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Linguistics

## Associateships

Graduate teaching associateships in linguistics are offered each semester to a limited number of qualified students to teach the composition courses for international students. Those interested should send a letter of application to the graduate adviser.

## General Information

The Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages offers graduate study leading to the Master of Arts degree in linguistics. The interdisciplinary program provides broad educational opportunities through three specializations: 1) General Linguistics, for those planning to pursue a doctorate in theoretical areas (e.g., syntax or phonology) or for those who plan to work in a language-related field in industry or education; 2) ESL/Applied, for students planning to pursue a doctorate in applied linguistics, or intending to teach or design curriculum for ESL/EFL classrooms; 3) Computational Linguistics, for those planning a career in business or industry in computational linguistics, or a doctorate in this area. In addition to completing coursework for one of the specializations and demonstrating proficiency in a foreign language, students are required to submit a thesis (Plan A) or pass a comprehensive examination (Plan B).

All students who complete the required program will receive a Master of Arts degree in linguistics. If requested, the department will provide a letter designating a student's specialization for purposes of employment or application for further study. The specializations and language research interests of faculty members in this program are:

**Zev Bar-Lev** – ESL, discourse analysis, linguistics and computers; Hebrew, Arabic, and Russian.

**Soonja Choi** – Psycholinguistics, first and second language acquisition, cognition and language, ESL, materials development; Korean, French.

**Eniko Csomay** – ESL, corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, language variation, classroom discourse, research methods.

**Thomas S. Donahue** – American dialectology, sociolinguistics, historical linguistics; old English, middle English.

**Jean Mark Gawron** – Computational linguistics (parsing, pragmatic narrowing, machine translation); semantics (quantification, anaphora, comparatives, lexical semantics).

**Yoshiko Higurashi** – Phonology, accent and intonation, syllable structure, speech pathology, intercultural communication, Japanese language teaching.

**Jeffrey P. Kaplan** – Syntax, semantics, pragmatics, discourse, language and law; Swahili.

**Robert P. Malouf** – Computational linguistics, statistical natural language processing, machine learning, constraint-based grammar formalisms.

**Deborah Poole** – Classroom interaction, discourse analysis, cross-cultural interaction, ESL methods and materials.

**Gail L. Robinson** – Second language methodology, second language and culture acquisition, psycholinguistics; Spanish.

**Betty T. R. Samraj** – Discourse analysis, writing in the disciplines, ESL methods and materials, systemic-functional linguistics.

**Robert Underhill** – Descriptive linguistics, phonology, syntax, discourse; Turkish, Native American languages, Southeast Asian languages.

**Charlotte Webb** – Phonology, second Language acquisition, sociolinguistics; Spanish, Chinese, Lapp.

**Ruey-Jiuan Regina Wu** – Conversation analysis, pragmatics, and functional linguistics, with particular emphasis on Mandarin Chinese; language assessment; teaching methodologies, and language pedagogy.

**Zheng-sheng Zhang** – Chinese language structure (semantics, pragmatics, discourse analysis, dialects). Language pedagogy. Technology for language teaching.

## Admission to Graduate Study

In addition to meeting the requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing, as described in Part Two of this bulletin, the student must have a Bachelor of Arts degree in linguistics or a related field that would demonstrate adequate preparation for the program.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at <http://www.csumentor.edu> along with the \$55 application fee.

All applicants must submit admissions materials separately to SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle East Languages.

### Graduate Admissions

The following materials should be submitted as a complete package directly to:

Graduate Admissions  
Enrollment Services  
San Diego State University  
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

- (1) Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all postsecondary institutions attended;

Note:

- Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts for work completed since last attendance.
- Students with international coursework must submit both the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified English translation.

- (2) GRE scores (<http://www.ets.org>, SDSU institution code 4682).

All students are required to have GRE scores of 1050 or better on the combined verbal/quantitative portions of the test (with a minimum of 500 on each part);

- (3) TOEFL score, if medium of instruction was in a language other than English (<http://www.ets.org>, SDSU institution code 4682). Students who have a B.A. from a university where English is not the primary medium of instruction are required to have TOEFL

scores of 570 or better. The TWE (Test of Written English) is also required, and will primarily be used to advise students regarding their program of courses.

#### Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages

The following materials should be mailed or delivered to:  
 Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages (BA-334)  
 (Attention: Graduate Adviser)  
 San Diego State University  
 5500 Campanile Drive  
 San Diego, CA 92182-7727

- (1) A statement of purpose (250-500 words) which demonstrates an understanding of the SDSU program and which show interest in an area of research that is within the department's score of expertise;
- (2) Two letters of recommendation be sent directly from the recommenders (who can evaluate the applicant's academic potential) to the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages graduate adviser.

A student who is deficient in any of the above requirements may be considered for conditional admission. A candidate may be required to complete specified courses within a specific time period in addition to completing the minimum 30 units required for the degree.

The fall semester graduate application deadline for the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages is May 15. The spring semester graduate application deadline is November 1. In order to ensure consideration, you must have ALL application materials to both the Office of Graduate Admissions and the department by the deadline.

For additional information, contact Yasmine Panahi at [ypanahi@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:ypanahi@mail.sdsu.edu) and request an M.A. information packet.

#### Advancement to Candidacy

All candidates must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Part Two of this bulletin. In addition to the requirements listed, students must demonstrate reading or speaking knowledge of at least one foreign language prior to advancement to candidacy.

#### Specific Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree

(Major Code: 15051)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the Master of Arts degree, as described in Part Two of this bulletin, the student must complete a graduate program of at least 30 units of 500-, 600-, and 700-level courses including Linguistics 622 and 795. A minimum of 15 of the units taken must be from 600- or 700-level courses.

Students selecting the General Linguistics specialization must complete Linguistics 621 and six units from the following: Linguistics 610, 620, 640, 651, 654, and 660.

Students selecting the ESL/Applied specialization must complete either Linguistics 521 or 621, Linguistics 652, and at least six units from the following: Linguistics 623, 650, 653, and 655. An internship, Linguistics 740, is required of all students selecting this specialization who have not taught ESL previously.

Students selecting the Computational Linguistics specialization must complete Linguistics 581 or Computer Science 581, 582, either 521 or 621, and six units selected from Linguistics 571, 596 (when offered with computational linguistics content), 620, 654, 681, 696 (when offered with computational linguistics content). The graduate electives should be approved by the graduate adviser. **A prerequisite to the Computational Linguistics specialization is completion of Linguistics 570 or equivalent.**

Students selecting one specialization may enroll in courses from the other specialization as electives.

With the approval of the graduate adviser, a maximum of six units selected from the following courses will be accepted for graduate credit in linguistics: Anthropology 604; Communication 530, 584; Computer Science 550, 560, 562, 596 (when offered with computational linguistics content), 620, 650 (when offered with computational linguistics content), 696 (when offered with computational linguistics content), Rhetoric and Writing Studies 602; Spanish 561, 770; Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences 790, 793.

#### Plan A or Plan B

With approval of the graduate adviser, a student may choose either Plan A, the normal option which requires a thesis, or in special circumstances and with the prior approval of the graduate adviser, Plan B, which requires a written comprehensive examination. Plan A students must select a committee of three faculty, two of whom are from the department, to supervise the thesis. In consultation with the graduate adviser, students select one of two options upon approval of an official program and advancement to candidacy.

#### Advanced Certificate in Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (TESL/TEFL)

The Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages offers a Basic and an Advanced Certificate in Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (TESL/TEFL). The Advanced Certificate requires Linguistics 652; two courses from Linguistics 650, 653, 655, and 795 (when offered with applied linguistics content); and one course from Linguistics 530, 622, 623, 651, 654, and 795. Students must obtain a 3.0 GPA overall in the courses for the advanced certificate. The prerequisite to the Advanced Certificate is the Basic Certificate or its equivalent. A student's entire program comprising Basic and Advanced Certificates must include at least one course from Linguistics 530, 622, and 623. Under certain circumstances comparable courses taken at other institutions may count toward the certificate. Such courses must be evaluated and approved by the certificate adviser. For information on the Basic Certificate, please see the *General Catalog*.