

Seung Ah Kwak

sakwak2@illinois.edu • www.linkedin.com/in/seung-ah-kwak

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

PhD in Linguistics

Supervisor: Silvina Montrul

Urbana, IL

Expected May 2027

Syracuse University (SU)

MA in Linguistics

Syracuse, NY

May 2022

University of Texas at Arlington (UTA)

BA in Linguistics (with honors)

Thesis: The relative frequency effects between the complex word and its stem

Supervisor: Dr. Naoko Witzel

Arlington, TX

May 2020

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Psycholinguistics, Neurolinguistics, Heritage Language Acquisition, Sentence Processing

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE TALKS

- Kwak, S.** (2023). *Children's literature as a pedagogical tool in language class*. The 26th Annual Conference of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages, April 21-23, 2023, Northbrook, IL.
- Kwak, S.** (2023). *The use of folktales: A case study in the Korean language classroom*. The Second Language Acquisition Graduate Student Symposium, March 31-April 1, 2023, University of Minnesota.
- Kwak, S.** (2023). *The Use of Folklore: A Case Study in the Korean Language Classroom*. The TESOL/ Applied Linguistics Graduate Students Conference, February, 11, 2023, Greensboro College, NC.
- Kwon, M., & **Kwak, S.** (2022). *Inflectional neutralization in Maay Maay negation*, The Annual Conference on African Linguistics 53, April 7-9th, 2022, virtual.
- Kwak, S.**, Tang, R., & Witzel, N. (2020) *Relative frequency effects in morphological processing*. The Words in the World International Conference, October 16 – 18, 2020, virtual.
- Kwak, S.**, Tang, R., & Witzel, N. (2020). *Is scissors made up of scissor and a plural marker?* The UTA Student Conference in Linguistics and TESOL, February 28, 2020, UTA.
- Kwak, S.** (2019). *My English tutoring service learning experience*, The Student Service Learning Showcase, April 26, 2019, UTA.
- Kwak, S.**, Kirton, W., Huynh, J., Kim, J., & Witzel, N. (2019). *How Korean-English bilinguals represent stop sounds in their two languages*. The Cultural Constructions Conference March 21, 2019, UTA.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

- Kwak, S.** (2023). *The role of the affective filter in second language reading: The use of folklore in a Korean language class.* The 15TH Annual Meeting of the Illinois Language and Linguistics Society, March 3-4, 2023, UIUC.
- Kirton, W., **Kwak, S.**, Huynh, J., Kim, J., & Witzel, N. (2019). *Stop sounds in Korean-English bilinguals.* The Second Language Research Forum, September 20-22, 2019, Michigan State University.
- Kwak, S.**, Tang, R., & Witzel, N. (2019). *Is scissors made up of scissor and a plural marker?* The Honors Research Symposium, November 15, 2019, UTA.
- Kwak, S.**, Tang, R., & Witzel, N. (2019). *Is scissors made up of scissor and a plural marker?* The 11th Annual DFW Metroplex Linguistics Conference, November, 14, 2019, University of North Texas-Denton.
- Kwak, S.**, Kirton, W., Huynh, J., Kim, J., & Witzel, N. (2019). *Can Korean-English bilinguals distinguish Korean and English stop sounds?* The UTA Student Conference in Linguistics and TESOL, March 1, 2019, UTA.
- Kwak, S.**, Kirton, W., Huynh, J., Kim, J., & Witzel, N. (2019). *How do Korean-English bilinguals represent stop sounds?* The College of Liberal Art's Spotlight Student Research Forum, 2019, UTA.
- Kwak, S.**, Tang, R., & Witzel, N. (2019). *Is scissors made up of scissor and a plural marker?* The Researcher – Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Presentation, 2019, UTA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Teaching Assistant of Korean

August 2022-present

- Incorporate communicative activities and cultural components into lesson plans to assist students' understanding of the Korean language
- Prepare and conduct intermediate-level Korean courses through lectures and student assessments

Syracuse University

Teaching Assistant of Korean

August 2020-May 2022

- Created a folktale-based course to teach Korean language and culture
- Used authentic materials such as TV shows, movies, newspaper, radio, short stories, songs, and blog posts to expose students to colloquial Korean
- Used various technologies such as Blackboard, Kaltura and Zoom to hold online, hybrid, and in-person classes

University of Texas at Arlington

Intern TESOL courses

August 2018-July 2019

- Tutored basic grammar to French, Arabic, Chinese and Korean-speaking ESL students using tailored lesson plans
- Assisted an instructor in basic ESL grammar class for 60 hours by answering students' questions and explaining English grammar rules

Houston Community College

Spanish Supplemental Instructor Leader

June 2017-May 2018

- Assisted two Spanish professors in class by facilitating small group sessions during class
- Held regular supplemental tutoring sessions using self-made quizzes and tests 15 hours per week

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Arlington

Second Language Acquisition Lab Graduate Assistant

August 2023-present

University of Texas at Arlington

Psycholinguistics Lab Undergraduate Assistant

September 2018-May 2020

- Analyzed data using CELEX, CheckVocal, DMDX, Latent Semantic Analysis, N-Watch, R, SubtlexUS, the ARC Nonword Database, and WordGen
- Recruited 45 participants and collected data at the lab
- Prepared and presented paper and poster at multiple conferences

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program

Fall 2019

- Collected data using DMDX to measure reaction times to visual stimuli
- Analyzed data for a lexical decision task for the morphological decomposition project

I-Engage Mentoring Program

Summer 2019

- Developed a psycholinguistics experiment with a PhD student on frequency effects of morphological decomposition, using software such as N-Watch, WordGen, CELEX, and the ARC Nonword Database

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023 Virtual Heritage Language Teacher Workshop

June 2023

(<https://nhlrc.ucla.edu/nhlrc/event/15900>)

The Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$300) March 2023

UIUC Departmental Conference Presentation Award (\$100) February 2023

UIUC University Fellowship (\$3,600) AY 2022-2023

Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Scholarship (\$500) September 2021

Summer Research Fellowship at SU (\$562) June 2021-August 2021

Yumi Nakamura Award (2nd place) February 2020

Honors College Excellence Fund, the Honors College at UTA (\$500) January 2020

The UTA Pathway to Graduation Scholarship (\$1,000) AY 2019-2020

Dean's Accolade Award from College of Liberal Arts at UTA September 2019

Dana Dunn Honors College Endowed Scholarship (\$500) June 2019

An Undergraduate College of Liberal Arts Scholar at UTA April 2019

UTA Transfer Scholarship and the Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship AY 2018-2020

A Nominee of the All Texas Academic Team March 2017

Foreign Language Student of the Year Nominee, Houston Community College March 2017

Houston Community College Northwest Student Government Association Nominee March 2017

SERVICE

Co-chair 16th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Language and Linguistics Society	2023-2024
Social media management committee member 15th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Language and Linguistics Society	2022-2023

LANGUAGES

Korean (native), English (near-native proficiency), Spanish (limited working proficiency),
American Sign Language (elementary), French (elementary)