

YANGCHEN ROY

Postdoctoral Researcher · Institut für deutsche Sprache und Linguistik · Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, child language acquisition, adult language processing, language documentation & grammar writing, child and adult language pedagogy.

EDUCATION

- 2023 **Ph.D. Linguistics**, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Title: *Exploring anaphora binding and its acquisition: The view from Bangla and Malayalam*.
Advisor: Ayesha Kidwai. Examiners: Tom Roeper, Samar Husain.
- 2016 **M.A. Linguistics**, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Fieldwork report title: *Tense, Aspect and Mood in Gaddi*. Advisor: Ayesha Kidwai.
- 2015 **Diplôme d'Étude en Langue Française (DELF) B1**
Ministry of Higher Education and Research, French Republic.
- 2014 **Advanced Diploma in French**, The English & Foreign Languages University (EFL-U) Hyderabad
- 2014 **B.A. English (with Honours)**, EFL-U Hyderabad

WORK EXPERIENCE

- JAN 2025 – **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
European Research Council Synergy Grant Project *Realizing Leibniz's Dream: Child Languages as a Mirror of the Mind*. PIs: Artemis Alexiadou, Maria Teresa Guasti, Uli Sauerland.
- JAN 2024 – DEC 2024 **Language Instructor**, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
Language Learning Centre, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences. Responsibilities: teaching English language and grammar, and academic reading and writing, to students using insights from theoretical and experimental linguistics.
- MAY 2023 – DEC 2023 **Project Associate (Linguistics)**, Kalanidhi Division, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
Project: India Implementation of the UNESCO Global Action Plan for the UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022–2032. PI: Ramesh C. Gaur. Responsibilities: drafted grant proposal to build a digital language archive and museum of the endangered and lesser-known languages of India.
- SEPT 2023 – JAN 2024 **Consultant Linguist**, Oxford University Press
Consultant researcher for Bangla NLP products of Oxford Languages.
- 2022, 2023 **Lecturer**, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute
Department of Linguistics. Courses: Phonology (Masters, Winter 2022); Morphology & Syntax (Masters, Monsoon 2023).
- MONSOON 2020 **Instructor**, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Centre for Linguistics. Course: Introduction to Linguistics (Bachelors level).
- WINTER 2019 **Teaching Assistant**, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Centre for Linguistics. Course: Generative Syntax I (Masters level).

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2026 Nair, A., Nayak, A., Kumari, P., **Roy, Y.**, & Sharma, V. *A Grammar of Gaddi*. Grammar of World and Minority Languages Series. University College London Press.

Book chapters

- 2026 Kidwai, A., Pareek, B., & **Roy, Y.** 'Knowing and learning Hindi and Bangla in early childhood: Inputs from acquisition', In: *From principles to praxis: How linguistic theories interact with language learning and pedagogy*. Eds. Panda, M., Mishra, S., & Kóczy, J. B. Springer.
- 2022 Kidwai, A., Pareek, B., & **Roy, Y.** 'Child Language Acquisition: Cross-linguistic Evidence for Universal Grammar', In: *Language, Mind, Society: A Reader for Students of Language and Education*. Eds. Agnihotri, R.K. & Kumar, R. Orient Blackswan. ISBN: 978-93-5442-058-0.

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- 2022 Alamu, R., **Roy, Y.**, & Das, S. 'The neglect of researchers during the first COVID-19 pandemic induced national lockdown in India: Inside the lives of JNU's research scholars', *Higher Education*, Springer. Online ISSN: 0018-1560.
- 2017 **Roy, Y.**, & Chakraborty, P. Gaddi Case. *Jadavpur Journal of Language and Linguistics*. School of Languages and Linguistics, Jadavpur University. Vol. 1 (No. 2), p. 008–020. ISSN: 2581-494X.
- 2016 Bhadra, D., Bhattacharya, B., Dutta, M., & **Roy, Y.** 'Bangla Negative Polarity Items: A Detailed Study', *Indian Linguistics*, The Linguistics Society of India. Vol. 77 (No. 1–2), p. 79–102. ISSN: 0378-0759.

Conference proceedings

- 2022 **Roy, Y.** 'On the context layer of Bangla pronouns'. (Formal) Approaches to South Asian Languages 10 proceedings. *The Journal of South Asian Linguistics*. ISSN: 1947-8232.

Manuscripts

- 2023 **Roy, Y.** *Exploring anaphora binding and its acquisition: The view from Bangla and Malayalam*. [Doctoral Dissertation]. Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- 2019 Chakraborty, P., Kumari, P., Kumari, P., **Roy, Y.**, & Sharma, V. *Gaddi Syntax*. Field Linguistics @ JNU.
- 2016 **Roy, Y.** *Tense, Aspect and Mood (TAM) in Gaddi*. MA Linguistics Field Methods Report. JNU.

Squibs

- 2018 **Roy, Y.** 'The history of Dravidian pronouns and reflexives'. JNU.

Linguistics fieldwork tools

- 2019 **Roy, Y.** 'Questionnaire for eliciting pronouns, reflexives and reciprocals in South Asian languages: English–Hindi Bilingual set'. Field Linguistics @ JNU.

As Editor

- 2019 Sharma, S. 'Gaddi kinship and kinship terminology'. Field Linguistics @ JNU.
- 2019 Chakraborty, P., Kumari, P., Kumari, P., **Roy, Y.**, & Sharma, V. 'Gaddi syntax'. Field Linguistics @ JNU.

TALKS

Invited talks

- 2024 **Roy, Y.** *The delay in the acquisition of Bangla politeness.* In Tom Roeper's 711 Spring 2024 course: Language Acquisition from Theoretical (and Experimental) Perspectives. University of Massachusetts, Amherst. February.
- 2022 Alamu, R., **Roy, Y.**, & Das, S. *A view of the abysmal state of research scholars' finances during the COVID-19 pandemic.* Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP), Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. October.
- 2022 **Roy, Y.** *On the Acquisition of the Anaphoric Possessive DP: Insights from Bangla.* Psycholinguistics Lab, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. July.
- 2020 **Roy, Y.** *Inside the world of children's Bangla pronouns.* Zoomdemic: A Pandemic Lecture Series for MA Linguistics. Centre for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. April.

Peer-reviewed presentations

- 2026 Amato, I., Roy, Y., Sauerland, U., & Alexiadou, A. *The core structure of motion events in Italian, Bangla, and German child language.* Neglected Aspects of Motion Event Description, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. May.
- 2024 Kidwai, A., Pareek, B., & **Roy, Y.** *The delay in Bangla polite pronoun acquisition as evidence for a nominal periphery and peripheral features.* South Asian Forum on the Acquisition and Processing of Language, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. December.
- 2023 **Roy, Y.** *A Merge-based account of reference resolution.* The 10th International Conference on Formal Linguistics (ICFL-10), Tsinghua University, Beijing. October.
- 2023 **Roy, Y.** *On the acquisition of formal pronouns in Bangla.* The 18th International Pragmatics Conference, Brussels. July. (Online)
- 2022 **Roy, Y.** *The delay in Bangla polite pronoun acquisition as evidence for a nominal periphery and peripheral features.* South Asian Language Analysis Roundtable (SALA) 36, Madan Bhandari Memorial College, Kathmandu. November.
- 2022 Bhattacharjee, N., & **Roy, Y.** *On Bangla go and re.* South Asian Language Analysis Roundtable (SALA) 36, Madan Bhandari Memorial College, Kathmandu. November.
- 2022 **Roy, Y.** *Reference in discourse: R-expressions as pronouns in Malayalam and Bangla, and beyond.* The Interaction of Formal Means and Functional Categories in the Coding of Reference, Universidad de Sonora, Mexico. November. (Online)
- 2021 **Roy, Y.** *Acquisition of Bangla pronouns and reflexives: What production in rich context tells us.* The International Association for the Study of Child Language (IASCL) 2021 Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. June. (Online)
- 2020 **Roy, Y.** *On the context layer of Bangla pronouns.* The (Formal) Approaches to South Asian Languages (FASAL), Ohio State University, Columbus. March. (Online)
- 2019 **Roy, Y.** *What native speakers really know about their reflexives and pronouns: perusing Bangla and Malayalam.* The International Symposium on Interfaces in Generative Linguistics, South China Normal University, Guangzhou. November.
- 2019 **Roy, Y.**, & Sharma, V. *Agreement in Gaddi: A distributed morphology approach.* The International Conference of the Linguistics Society of India (ICOLSI) 41, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak. October.
- 2019 **Roy, Y.** *Licensing reflexives and pronouns in Spec DP: Probing what adults know.* National Seminar on Linguistics and Language Sciences in India, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. July.

- 2019 **Roy, Y.** *Mapping the variation in the anaphora licensing strategies of adult speakers of Bangla*. The Dependency in Syntactic COvariance (DISCO) workshop, Universität Leipzig. April.
- 2017 **Roy, Y.** *Gaddi Case*. Students' Conference of Linguistics in India (SCONLI), Jadavpur University, Kolkata. January.
- 2015 Nair, A., & **Roy, Y.** *The Phonological Distribution of Malayalam Dative Case*. The International Conference of the Linguistics Society of India (ICOLSI) 37, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. October.
- 2014 **Roy, Y.**, & Majumdar, I. *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*. The 3rd Annual Academic Conference of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai. February.

FIELDWORK & EXPERIMENTATION

- 2025 – **Bangla, Malayalam, Italian, German**
Close study of: child language acquisition of reflexive and pronoun acquisition, motion verbs, deixis and complex predicates
- 2020 **Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on researchers**
Participants: 330+. Tools: multiple-choice and open-ended questions based questionnaire (57 questions). Close study of: the work, finances, and mental health of research students during the COVID-19 lockdown in India.
- 2018–2022 **Bangla (Eastern Indo-Aryan) & Malayalam (South Dravidian)**
Participants: 242 adults (comprehension), 10 adults and 30 children (production). Tools: adult picture-to-sentence felicity matching tasks, picture-based fill-in-the-blank tasks, child storyboard-based elicitation tasks. Close study of: reflexive, pronominal anaphora and politeness processing and acquisition.
- 2018 **Spiti (Tibeto-Burman)**
Participants: 3 adults. Tools: novel Hindi–Spiti reflexive, pronoun and reciprocal elicitation questionnaire (448 utterances). Close study of: nominal addressee agreement, long-distance antecedent–anaphor agreement.
- 2015–2016 **Gaddi (Northern Indo-Aryan)**
Participants: 1 adult in-class informant + 1 village. Tools: Swadesh list and Abbi's *Basic Sentences for Collecting Field Data in Indian Languages*. Close study of: the morphosyntax of Gaddi tense, aspect, mood and case.

TEACHING

- MONSOON 2024 **Language & Writing Skills I**, Undergraduate, IIT Delhi
Select modules taught: nouns, articles, tense and aspect, common grammatical errors, vocabulary.
- WINTER 2024 **Language & Writing Skills II**, Undergraduate, IIT Delhi
Select modules taught: introduction to learning languages, linguistic ambiguity, writing with clarity and coherence, critical reading.
- MONSOON 2023 **Morphology & Syntax**, Masters, Deccan College
Modules taught: grammatical classes, constituency, sentence types, the morphology–syntax interface.
- WINTER 2022 **Phonology**, Masters, Deccan College
Modules taught: distinctive feature theory, generative phonology (linear model), constraints on phonological rules, post-SPE linear models.

MONSOON 2020	Introduction to Linguistics , Undergraduate, JNU Modules taught: Language — the most human thing about us, syntax, language acquisition, language and the human brain.
WINTER 2019	Generative Syntax I , Masters, JNU Responsibilities: tutored for the course (syntax problem sets, syntactic trees and constituent-marking classwork), all course evaluation, individual feedback to students.
2017–2019	English language & literature , Grades IX–XII, <i>Unnoticed</i> : Children of JNU Construction Workers Modules taught: assistance with learning content of the NCERT textbooks and grammar workbooks. Responsibilities: teaching English literature content via bilingual English and home-language based discussions of stories/poems, teaching English grammar by making students aware of the related linguistic properties of their home language, designing practice worksheets and mock exams.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & QUALIFICATIONS

2019	Best paper presentation award . National Seminar on Linguistics and Language Sciences in India, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.
2016–2021	UGC Junior–Senior Research Fellowship , Government of India. Awarded to the top 6% of National Eligibility Test (NET) qualified candidates.
2016	Qualified for Direct Ph.D. in the M.Phil./Ph.D. programme. Criterion: M.Phil./Ph.D. coursework GPA over 8.
2015	Certified for Assistant Professorship via the National Eligibility Test in Linguistics, UGC, Government of India.
2016	Qualified with Second-Highest GPA , M.A. Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University.
2014	Highest GPA Certification , B.A. English (with Honours), EFL-U.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC TRAINING

Theoretical linguistics

2019	Workshop on Approaches to Language Variation. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. February.
2018	<i>Parameters, predication, copular constructions, and variation</i> . FOSSSIL Linguistics Summer School in the Indian Mountains (LISSIM) II, Himachal Pradesh. May. Instructors: Ian Roberts, Susana Béjar, Michael Yoshitaka Erlewine, Tor Åfarli.
2016	<i>Topics in the Interface between Syntax, Semantics & Pragmatics: Asserting, Asking & Answering</i> . UGC GIAN Course, Mumbai University. January. Instructor: Veneeta Dayal. Grade A, 2 credits.
2017	<i>Verbal morphosyntax, the lexicon–syntax connection, and syntactic variation</i> . FOSSSIL LISSIM X, Himachal Pradesh. May. Instructors: Patrick Grosz, Mark Baker, Hagit Borer, Terje Lohndal, Tor Åfarli.
2016	<i>The syntax of Indo-Aryan languages</i> . UGC GIAN Course, Mumbai University. December. Instructor: Rajesh Bhatt. Grade A, 2 credits.
2015	<i>The role and the operation of negation and modality in languages</i> . FOSSSIL LISSIM 9, Himachal Pradesh. May. Instructors: Hedde Zeijlstra, Chris Collins, Utpal Lahiri.

Experimental, field and applied linguistics

2026	Multilingual Pedagogy for Teachers (MultiPed). University of Cambridge. July (Self-Paced, Online)
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- 2023 Experimental Methods in Language Acquisition Research (EMLAR) XIX 2023. Utrecht University. May. (Online)
- 2023 Experimental Linguistics Workshop. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. April. (Online)
- 2021 1st Truly Global/L+/Summer/Winter School on Language Acquisition. University of Potsdam and University of Padua. August. (Online)
- 2020 Many Paths to Language (MPaL) Workshop 2020. Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen. October. (Online)
- 2020 International Workshop on Language Documentation and Digital Archiving. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and the College of Information, University of North Texas. February.
- 2019 Forensic and Corpus Linguistics Workshop. National Seminar on Linguistics and Language Sciences in India, Jawaharlal Nehru University. July.
- 2019 Workshop on Experimental and Empirical Methods in Linguistics. Quality Improvement Programme & Continuing Education Programme, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. July.
- 2015 The Role of Linguistics in Mother-Tongue Education in a Multi-Lingual Classroom. Centre for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University. February.
- 2015 Roo-Ba-Roo: Indian Sign Language Workshop. Centre for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University. January.

SERVICE

Professional

- 2025 – Springer Nature’s Reviewer Communities · Trusted Reviewer
- 2023 *Journal of Child Language Acquisition and Development* · Manuscript Reviewer
- 2023 16th International Congress for the Study of Child Language · Abstract Reviewer
- 2023 Students’ Conference of Linguistics in India (SCONLI) 2024 · Abstract Reviewer
- 2023 Many Paths to Language (MPaL) 2023 · Abstract Reviewer
- 2017–2023 Field Linguistics @ JNU (www.flingjnu.com) · Editor and Manager
- 2019 SynSem@4thPot for Delhi’s Syntacticians and Semanticists · Organising Committee
- 2019 Forced Alignment Workshop · Organising Committee
- 2015 International Conference of the Linguistic Society of India · Organising Committee
- 2015 International Mother Language Day Workshop on the Role of Linguistics in Mother-Tongue Education in a Multi-Lingual Classroom · Student Volunteer
- 2014 Simon Fraser University–Jawaharlal Nehru University Joint Linguistic Symposium on the Indigenous Languages of Canada and India · Organising Committee

Other

- SUMMER 2021 **Language Teacher, A Summer Full of Stories** Summer Camp
Storytelling and story-making methods employed for English and home-language development of children aged 5 to 7, during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2017–2019 **Manager, Unnoticed: The Children of JNU Construction Workers**
Responsibilities: voluntary administrative management, including teacher recruitment, teaching schedule management, fundraising and purchasing.

2017–2019	English Teacher, <i>Unnoticed</i>: The Children of JNU Construction Workers Voluntary after-school Delhi Public School System curriculum-based classes for children from low-income families. Responsibilities: English language and literature instructor for grades 9 to 12; mentor to grades 11 and 12 in researching undergraduate academic and vocational training programmes.
2017–2018	Ph.D. Student Faculty Committee Representative, Jawaharlal Nehru University Elected representative of Ph.D. scholars of the Centre for Linguistics on the Committee for the Redressal of Student Grievances.
2011–2014	Peer-Tutor, The English and Foreign Languages University Peer-tutor for B.A. English courses to students from Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Iran.
SUMMER 2012	Teacher, Tomorrow's Foundation Model School Voluntary teaching of English, Hindi and Mathematics, West Bengal State Public School Curriculum, to children from low-income families using game-based learning methods (Kindergarten and Grade 1).

COMPUTER SKILLS

FIELDWORK / EXPERIMENTATION	Labvanced, PRAAT, ELAN, SIL FLE _x , SIL SayMore
STATISTICS	R, MS Excel
TYPESETTING	L ^A T _E X, MS Word

LANGUAGE SKILLS

ENGLISH (Germanic)	· Native (Indian English variety)
BANGLA (Indo-Aryan)	· Native
HINDI (Indo-Aryan)	· Native to Nearly-Native
MALAYALAM (Dravidian)	· Nearly Native
FRENCH (Romance)	· Intermediate reading, basic speaking

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Linguistics Society of India · Life Member
 International Congress of Infant Studies · 2022–present
 Cognitive Science Society · 2022–present
 International Pragmatics Association · 2022–present

REFEREES

Artemis Alexiadou · Professor, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; Director, Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, Berlin
Ayesha Kidwai · Professor, Centre for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Paroma Sanyal · Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi
Ramesh C Gaur · Associate Professor, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Media and Design, South Asian University, New Delhi
Sonal Kulkarni Joshi · Professor and Head, Department of Linguistics, Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute, Pune