YANGCHEN ROY

Postdoctoral Researcher
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Institut für deutsche Sprache und Linguistik

The LeibnizDream Project

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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office Room 3.410, Dorotheenstraße 24, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin

RESEARCH INTERESTS

syntax, morphology-syntax interface, syntax-semantics interface, syntax-pragmatics interface, child language acquisition, adult language processing, language documentation & description, 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 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 onwards   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 to 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
Monsoon 2023	Lecturer · Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute
	Department of Linguistics. **Course:** Morphology & Syntax (Masters level)
Winter 2022	Lecturer · Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute
	Department of Linguistics. **Course:** Phonology (Masters level)
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

Upcoming　　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

Upcoming　　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

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*. The South Asian Language Analysis Roundtable (SALA) 36, Madan Bhandari Memorial College, Kathmandu. November.
2022	Bhattacharjee, N., & **Roy, Y**. *On Bangla go and re*. The 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, Amarkanthak. 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. Universitat Leipzig, 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 onwards   ## Cross-linguistic data

Close study of: child language acquisition of reflexive and pronoun acquisition, motion verbs and deixis, and negative indefinites

2020   ## Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on researchers

Participants: 530+ **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 story-board-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 India Languages **Close study of:** The morpho-syntax of Gaddi Tense, Aspect and Morphology, 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 markings classwork), all course evaluation, individual feedback to students

2017-2019 — English language & literature · Grade IX, X, XI & XII · Unnoticed: Children of JNU Construction Workers

Modules taught: Assistance with learning content of the National Council for Educational Research and Training (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

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS

2019 — **Best paper presentation award**. The National Seminar on Linguistics and Language Sciences in India, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.

2016 - 2021 — **University Grants Commission of India Junior-Senior Research Fellowship**. Awarded to top 6% of National Eligibility Test (NET) qualified candidates

2016 — **Qualified for Direct PhD in the MPhil/PhD programme**. Criterion: MPhil/PhD Course Work GPA over 8.

2015 — Certified for Assistant Professorship via the National Eligibility Test in Linguistics, the University Grants Commission, Government of India

2016 — **Qualified with Second-Highest GPA, MA Linguistics**, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

2014 — **Highest GPA Certification, BA English (With Honours)**, The English and Foreign Languages University.

2011 — **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) Merit Award to top 1.5%** 1058450 KVS students in the Central Board of Secondary Education All India Senior School Certificate Examination (Percentile score: 94.4%)

Theoretical Linguistics

2019   *Workshop on Approaches to Language Variation.* Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. February.

2018   *Parameters, predication, copular constructions, and variation.* Formal Studies in the Syntax and Semantics of Indian Languages (FOSSSIL) Linguistics Summer School in the Indian Mountains (LISSIM) 11. Himachal Pradesh, India. May. **Instructors** Ian Roberts, Susana Bejar, Michael Yoshitaka Erlewine, Tor Afarli

2016   *Topics in the Interface between Syntax, Semantics & Pragmatics: Asserting, Asking & Answering*, University Grants Commission (UGC) of India Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) Courses. Mumbai University, India. January. **Instructor:** Veneeta Dayal, **Grade** A, **Credits** 2

2017   *Verbal morpho-syntax, the lexicon-syntax connection, and syntactic variation.* FOSSSIL LISSIM X. Himachal Pradesh, India. May. **Instructors:** Patrick Grosz, Mark Baker, Hagit Borer, Terje Lohndal, Tor Afarli

2016   *The syntax of Indo-Aryan languages.* UGC India GIAN Courses. Mumbai University, India. December. **Instructor:** Rajesh Bhatt, **Grade** A, **Credits** 2

2015   *The role and the operation of negation and modality in languages.* FOSSSIL LISSIM 9. Himachal Pradesh, India. May. **Instructors** Hedde Zeijlstra, Chris Collins, Utpal Lahiri

Experimental and Field Linguistics

2023   *Experimental Methods in Language Acquisition Research (EMLAR) XIX 2023.* Utrecht University, Utrecht. 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. 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.* The 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.

Others

2015   *The Role of Linguistics in Mother-Tongue Education in a Multi-Lingual Classroom.* The Centre for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University. February.

2015   *Roo-Ba-Roo: Indian Sign Language Workshop.* The Centre for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University. January.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2025 onwards   *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 SERVICE

Summer 2021 · Language Teacher · *A Summer Full of Stories Summer Camp*

Story-telling 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, fund-raising, and purchasing

2017 - 2019 · English Teacher · *Unnoticed*: 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. Also 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 PhD 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 BA 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 FLEx, SIL SayMore
Statistics	R, MS Excel
Typesetting	LaTeX, 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

Ayesha Kidwai

Professor
Centre for Linguistics
The School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi, Delhi, India 110067

Pramod Kumar Pandey

Vice-Chancellor
Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute
Pune, Maharashtra, India 411006

Utpal Lahiri

Associate Professor
Department of Linguistics and Contemporary English
School of Language Sciences
The English and Foreign Languages University
Hyderabad, Telangana, India 500007

Sonal Kulkarni Joshi

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Department of Linguistics
Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute
Pune, Maharashtra, India 411006

Sheba Victor

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Department of Training and Development
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