

MILA TASSEVA-KURKTCHIEVA

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Linguistics Program
University of South Carolina
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EDUCATION

- 2006 Ph.D. Linguistics. University of South Carolina
Dissertation: *Continuity Hypotheses Revisited: English L2 Acquisition of Bulgarian Noun Phrases*
Committee: Stanley Dubinsky (chair), Anne Bezuidenhout, Barbara Schulz, Roumyana Slabakova (University of Iowa)
- 1988 B.A./M.A. Bulgarian Philology. Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridsky
Thesis: *A Promenade with the Playwright Radichkov: Applying Realism to the Surreal World of the Remote Balkan Village*

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2012-present Research Associate Professor, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
2004-2012 Instructor, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
1999-2001 Teaching Assistant, English Department, University of South Carolina
2002-2006 Instructor, English Department, Midlands Technical College
1995-1999 Lead Language Instructor and Assistant Director of Programming and Training, US Peace Corps Bulgaria
1992-1995 Tutor of Bulgarian as a Second Language, self employed
1988-1992 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Bulgarian as a Foreign Language, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridsky

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 2014-present Program Director, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
2012-2014 Associate Director, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
1998-1999 Assistant Director of Programming and Training, US Peace Corps, Bulgaria
1995-1999 Lead Language Instructor and Curriculum Developer, US Peace Corps, Bulgaria

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

- 2001-2012 IT Manager, English Department, University of South Carolina

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Grants

- 2018-2019 Advanced Support for Innovative Research Excellence (ASPIRE-I: Innovation), University of South Carolina, #12070-18-47734, \$10,000.
2005-2007 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: "Continuity Hypotheses Revisited: English L2 Acquisition of Bulgarian Noun Phrases", BCS-0446667, \$11,936.

Awards

- 2007 Bruce Pearson Award for Outstanding Research, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina

- 2005 Dean's Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies, The Graduate School, University of South Carolina
- 2005 Carol Myers-Scotton Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
- 2001, 2000 Dean's Award for Academic Excellence, College of Liberal Arts, University of South Carolina, includes \$3,000 monetary award.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Second language acquisition (of syntax, semantics and morphology); L2 processing for comprehension and production; relationships between experimental and theoretical linguistics; Bulgarian and Slavic morphology, syntax and semantics; syntax/semantics and syntax/morphology interfaces

PUBLICATIONS:

Edited volumes

- 2006 (with James Lavine, Steven Franks and Hana Filip). *Proceedings of FASL 14: The Princeton Meeting*. Ann Arbor, MI: Michigan Slavic Publications.
- 2005 (with Steven Franks and Frank Gladney). *Proceedings of FASL 13: The South Carolina Meeting*. Ann Arbor, MI: Michigan Slavic Publications.

Articles

- 2018 (with Stanley Dubinsky) On the NP/DP language frontier: Bulgarian as a transitional case. In *Katerino Mome: Studies in Bulgarian Morphosyntax in Honor of Catherine Rudin*, eds. Franks, Steven L., Vrinda Chidambaram, Brian D. Joseph, and Iliyana Krapova, 287-312. Ann Arbor, MI: Michigan Slavic Publications.
- 2015 Can production precede comprehension in L2 acquisition? *Second Language Research*, 31.4: 493-522.
- 2009 (with Stanley Dubinsky) The Distribution of subjects and predicates in Bulgarian: An (EPP) V-feature account. In *Proceedings of FASL 17: The Yale Meeting*, eds. Jodi Reich, Maria Babyonyshev and Daria Kavitskaya, 236-250. Ann Arbor, MI: Michigan Slavic Publications.
- 2008 What about grammar? Comprehension and production at the initial stage of L2 acquisition. In *Proceedings of the 9th Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition Conference (GASLA 2007)*, ed. Roumyana Slabakova et al., 242-250. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.
- 2006 The categorial status of quantifiers in Bulgarian: Evidence for DP over QP. In *Proceedings of FASL 14: The Princeton Meeting*, eds. James Lavine, Steven Franks, Mila Tasseva-Kurktchieva, and Hana Filip, 378-393. Ann Arbor, MI: Michigan Slavic Publications.
- 2005 Possessives, Theta Roles, and the Internal Structure of Bulgarian DPs. In *Proceedings of FASL 12: The Ottawa Meeting*, ed. Olga Arnaudova, Wayles Browne, Maria Luisa Rivero, and Danijela Stojanović, 251-269. Ann Arbor, MI: Michigan Slavic Publications.
- 2005 The possessor that came home. In *Possessives and Beyond: Semantics and Syntax*. University of Massachusetts Occasional Papers (UMOP 29), ed. Ji-yung Kim, Barbara H. Partee, and Yury A. Lander, 279-293. Amherst, MA: GLSA Publications.

Language textbooks

*Note: each of the following volumes consists of approximately 70% newly developed material plus 30% material brought from the previous volumes. I contributed approximately half of the material in each volume.

- 1999 (with Aneta Dimitrova and Christina Tomova). *Bulgarian for Peace Corps Volunteers: In-Service Training May 1999*. 86 pp.
- 1998 (with Aneta Dimitrova and Christina Tomova). *Bulgarian for Peace Corps Volunteers: In-Service Training November 1998*. 85 pp.
- 1998 (with Aneta Dimitrova and Christina Tomova). *Bulgarian for Peace Corps Volunteers: In-Service Training April 1998*. 90 pp. (available through Education Resources Information Center: http://eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/Home.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=RecordDetails&ERICExtSearch_SearchValue_0=ED424736&ERICExtSearch_SearchType_0=eric_accno&objectId=0900000b80094877)
- 1997 (with Aneta Dimitrova and Christina Tomova). *Bulgarian for Peace Corps Volunteers: In-Service Training November 1997*. 131 pp. (available through Education Resources Information Center: http://eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/Home.portal?_nfpb=true&ERICExtSearch_SearchValue_0=mila%2Btasseva&ERICExtSearch_SearchType_0=au&_pageLabel=RecordDetails&objectId=0900000b80094875&accno=ED424735)

PRESENTATIONS

Invited talks

- 2010 Can L2 comprehension and production inform linguistic theories? Paper presented at the Linguistics Program, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, April 23, 2010.
- 2009 Comprehension and production of gender and number agreement: The case of Bulgarian and Spanish. Paper presented at the Department of Linguistics and Technical Communication, University of North Texas, Denton, TX, February 10, 2009.
- 2007 Can I talk before I know what I am saying? Production and comprehension at the initial state of L2 acquisition. Paper presented at the Linguistics Program and the Department of English. University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. October 26, 2007.
- 2007 Prototypical features and the L2 acquisition of morphology and syntax. Paper presented at the Linguistics Program and the Department of English. George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. February 22, 2007.
- 2006 Let's take separate paths: Comprehension and production at the initial stage of L2 acquisition. Paper presented at the Program of Second Language Studies in the Department of Linguistics. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. December 6, 2006.

Refereed conference papers and posters

- 2019 (with Angelina Rubina) Evidence for Feature Reassembly: Gender and number features in L2 Russian. Annual meeting of the American Association for Applied Linguistics. Atlanta, GA. March 9-12, 2019.
- 2019 (with Danielle Fahey) Relational features are harder to process in early L3 Portuguese. Conference on Executive Function in Mind and Brain, March 1, 2019.
- 2019 (with Angelina Rubina) Gender and number Feature Reassembly in L2 Russian/L2 Bulgarian. January 3-6, 2019.
- 2018 (with Stanley Dubinsky) On the NP/DP language frontier: Bulgarian as a transitional case. The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society. University of Oregon, Eugene, OR. September 28-30, 2018.
- 2017 (with Danielle Fahey and Jefferson De Carvalho Maia) L3 learners pick what they need: [Gender] and [number] agreement in L3 Portuguese. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (LSA). Austin, TX. January 5-8, 2017.
- 2016 (with Danielle Fahey) The effects of transfer and L2 proficiency on L3 comprehension. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (LSA). Washington, DC. January 7-10, 2016.

- 2015 (with Danielle Fahey) The effects of typology and L2 proficiency on L3 comprehension. *Second Language Research Forum (SLRF)*. Atlanta, GA. October 30-November 1, 2015.
- 2014 (with Stanley Dubinsky) On the NP/DP language frontier: Bulgarian as a transitional case. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (LSA). Minneapolis, MN. January 4, 2014.
- 2013 L2 acquisition of Spanish gender and number: A case against representational deficit hypotheses. Second Language Research Forum (SLRF). Provo, UT. October 30-November 2, 2013.
- 2013 (with Cameron Holder and Travis Sago) Gender agreement in L2 Spanish: Effects of morphology, animacy, and class. Second Language Research Forum (SLRF). Provo, UT. October 30-November 2, 2013.
- 2013 (with Anna Mikhaylova) Morphological and semantic factors in the acquisition of (im)perfectivity in L2 Russian. Second Language Research Forum (SLRF). Provo, UT. October 30-November 2, 2013.
- 2013 (with Stanley Dubinsky and Anna Mikhaylova) Telicity and the structure of VP objects in Slavic and English. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (LSA). Boston, MA. January 3-6, 2013.
- 2012 Which features are easier to reassemble: The case of L2 Spanish gender and number. Second Language Research Forum (SLRF). Pittsburgh, PA. October 18-21, 2012.
- 2012 Feature reassembly in L2 Spanish: The case of gender and number. Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition in North America (GALANA). Kansas, KS. October 11-13, 2012
- 2012 (with Stanley Dubinsky) How feature classes determine L2 comprehension and production: The case of NP acquisition. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (LSA). Portland, OR. January 5-8, 2012.
- 2011 (with Stanley Dubinsky) A focused look at scattered deletion in Slavic. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (LSA). Pittsburgh, PA. January 6-9, 2011.
- 2010 Comprehension and production skills in L2 Bulgarian and Spanish. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (LSA). Baltimore, MD. January 7-10, 2010.
- 2008 (with Stanley Dubinsky) The distribution of subjects and predicates in Bulgarian: An (EPP) V-feature account. Poster presented at Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL) 17. New Haven, CT. May 8-10, 2008.
- 2008 (with Stanley Dubinsky) The role of strong (EPP) V-features in determining Bulgarian word-order. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (LSA). Chicago, IL. January 3-6, 2008.
- 2007 What about grammar? Comprehension and production at the initial state of L2 acquisition. Poster presented at Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition (GASLA) 9. Iowa City, IA. May 18-20, 2007.
- 2007 L2 production before comprehension: Morpho-syntax vs. semantics-pragmatics. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (LSA). Anaheim, CA. January 4-7, 2007.
- 2006 Is morphology one step before syntax? Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) 2006. University of Washington, Seattle, WA. October 6-8, 2006.
- 2006 Morphology precedes syntax at the initial stage of L2 Acquisition? Inaugural meeting of the Slavic Linguistic Society. Bloomington, IN. September 6-8, 2006.
- 2006 Three categories of quantifiers in Bulgarian. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (LSA). Albuquerque, NM. January 5-8, 2006.
- 2005 Grammar at the initial stage of acquisition: Evidence from English L1 Bulgarian L2. American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL). Washington, DC. December 27-30, 2005.
- 2005 Between DP and NP: Quantifier types in Bulgarian. Poster presented at Workshop on QP structure, Nominalizations and the role of DP. Saarbrücken, Germany. December 16-17, 2005.

- 2005 Morphosyntax at the initial stage: Evidence from English L1–Bulgarian L2. Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) 2005. Teachers College, Columbia University, NY. October 7-9, 2005
- 2005 The categorical status of quantifiers in Bulgarian: Evidence for QP over DP. Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL) 14. Princeton, NJ. May 6-8, 2005.
- 2003 NP internal possessives in Bulgarian: The problem of syntactic inequality. Bulgarian Studies Conference (BSC). Columbus, OH. October 9-12, 2003.
- 2003 Possessives and the internal structure of Bulgarian DPs. Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL) 12. Ottawa, Canada. May 9-11, 2003.
- 2002 The possessor that came home. Workshop on Syntax/Semantics of Possessives. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. May 9-10, 2002.
- 2002 Four ways to say ‘I own you’. Graduate Student Day, University of South Carolina. April 2002.
- 2001 Multiple wh-movement in Bulgarian: What is still not explained. Paper accepted at Formal Descriptions of Slavic Languages (FDSL) IV. Potsdam, Germany. November 2001.
- 2001 The interaction of Topic, Focus and Complementizer phrase in Bulgarian. Subtropical Summer Syntax Workshop. July 2001.
- 2000 The spread of the imperfective 1st person singular and plural inflections to the perfective conjugations in modern Bulgarian. Annual Conference of the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association (SCLA). University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. November 2000.
- 2000 Evidence for weak continuity in learning Bulgarian as L2. Second language research forum (SLRF). University of Wisconsin, Madison. September 2000.
- 2000 As I can do it: A discourse analytical approach to Bulgarian e-mail style. Graduate Student Day, University of South Carolina. April 2000.

DISSERTATION AND THESIS COMMITTEES

Dissertation committee chair:

Danielle Fahey (in progress), Elena Galkina (in progress, with Amanda Dalola), Angelina Rubina (in progress), Keunhyung Park (in progress, with Stanley Dubinsky), Raymond Knight (in progress, with Paul Malovrh), Jenna Steiner (2019), Christopher Farina (2017), Burcu Gökgöz Kurt (2016, with D. Eric Holt), Anna Mikhaylova (2012, with Stanley Dubinsky).

Dissertation committee member:

Peter Nelson (in progress), Joe LeTexier (2019), Jefferson de Carvalho Maia (2018), Alisha Biler (2018), Wei Cheng (2016), Aubrey Phillips-Dillard (2014), Eun-Young Shin (2012)

MA committees:

Angelina Rubina (chair), Samuel Hackworth (chair, 2016), Tyler Evans (chair, 2016), Carolyn Tripp (chair, 2015), Kristie Kannaley (chair, 2015), Andrea Melo (reader, 2015), Raymond Knight (chair, 2014), Stephanie Boyter (chair, 2014), Cameron Bandera (reader, 2014), Alisha Biler (reader, 2010), Jing Li (reader, 2010).

COURSES TAUGHT (8 graduate, 3 upper level undergraduate, 4 composition)

Graduate

Since Fall 2004 for the Linguistics Program at University of South Carolina:
 LING 521 (previously LING 725): Advanced English Grammar
 LING 570: Language Development
 LING 600: Introduction to Linguistics
 LING 720 (previously LING 620): Introduction to Syntax
 LING 790: Survey of Second Language Acquisition

LING 791: Theory and Methodology of SLA
 LING 795: Principles and strategies for teaching ESOL
 LING 890: Seminar in SLA: L2 Input Processing
 LING 890: Seminar in SLA: Bilingualism
 LING 891: Seminar in SLA: The Application of SLA Theory in ESL Practice

Undergraduate

Since Spring 2004 for the Linguistics Program at University of South Carolina:

LING 300: Introduction to Language Sciences, University of South Carolina
 LING 474 (previously LING 405): Bilingualism
 2002-2006 ENG 100: Introduction to Composition, ENG 101: English Composition I, and ENG 102: English Composition II, English Department, Midlands Technical College
 2000-2001 ENGL 101: Critical Reading and Composition and ENGL 102: Rhetoric and Composition, English Department, University of South Carolina
 1988-1992 Bulgarian as a Second Language for Academic Purposes, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridsky

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

2012-present Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
 1995-1999 Pre-Service and In-Service Training Language Programs, US Peace Corps Bulgaria

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Organizer of...

Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) 2014, University of South Carolina. Chair of Faculty Advisory Committee.
 Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL) 13, University of South Carolina. (with John Alderete, Stanley Dubinsky and Curtis Ford). 2004.

Reviewer of grant applications for...

National Science Foundation. 2006, 2007.

Reviewer of manuscript submissions for...

Second Language Research. 2011, 2012, 2017, 2018
Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism. 2011, 2017, 2018
Bilingualism: Language and Cognition. 2010
Lingua. 2009
Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL) 15. 2006
Journal of Slavic Linguistics. 2005, 2012

Reviewer of abstracts for...

Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA). 2011, 2012, 2017, 2018
 Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL). 2004, 2005

Member of search committees...

Second Language Acquisition search committee, student representative, Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina. 2005-2006 and 2001-2002.

Member of advisory board...

Computer Advisory Committee, College of Liberal Arts, University of South Carolina. 2001-2009.

Editor:
Carolina Working Papers in Linguistics. 2000-2001.