Maaz Shaikh

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in Maaz Shaikh

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Language documentation and description, Morphosyntax, Historical linguistics, Phonology, Language planning and revitalization, Language contact, Western Tibetic languages, Indo-Aryan languages.

EDUCATION

SINCE 2022   Doctor of Philosophy in LINGUISTICS, **University of Alberta**, Edmonton, Canada
Dissertation title: *A grammar of Zangskari* (Tentative)
Committee: Jorge ROSÉS LABRADA (Chair), Benjamin TUCKER, and Shobhana CHELLIAH

2021-22   Doctor of Philosophy in LINGUISTICS, **Jawaharlal Nehru University**, New Delhi, India (Discontinued)

2019–21   Master of Philosophy in LINGUISTICS, **Jawaharlal Nehru University**, New Delhi
Thesis title: *Verb Morphology in Awadhi of Azamgarh*
https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5704835
Advisor: Prof. Pradeep Kumar DAS
FINAL GRADE POINTS AVERAGE (FGPA): 8.66 out of 9 [91.6%]

2017–19   Master of Arts in LINGUISTICS, **University of Delhi**, New Delhi, India
Thesis title: *Interrogation in Ladakhi*
https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5841251
Course Supervisor (for Field Methods): Dr. Gail COELHO
FINAL MARKS: 1149/1600 [71.81%]

2013–17   Bachelor of Engineering in MECHANICAL ENGINEERING,
Dwarkadas. J. Sanghvi College of Engineering, University of Mumbai, Mumbai
Project title: *Design and Manufacture of 3-Wheel All-Terrain Vehicle*

POSITIONS

SINCE 2023 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
for LING 102: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis
Department of Linguistics, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.

2022–23 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
for LING 101: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis
Department of Linguistics, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.

2021–22 **Senior Research Fellow**
Centre for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.

2019–21 **Junior Research Fellow**
Centre for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND CERTIFICATES

SCHOLARSHIPS

2023-24 **Ivy A Thomson and William A Thomson Graduate Scholarship**.
Amount: $15,000 CAD

SINCE 2022 **Graduate Assistantship**,
University of Alberta
Fellowship amount: $ 17,302.16/year (CAD)

2021-22 **Senior Research Fellowship**,
University Grants Commission, Ministry of Education, Government of India.
Fellowship amount: ₹ 35,000/month

2019–21 **Junior Research Fellowship**,
University Grants Commission, Ministry of Education, Government of India.
Fellowship amount: ₹ 31,000/month

2013–17 **DTE Scholarship**,
Directorate of Technical Education, Govt. of Maharashtra.
Scholarship amount: ₹ 25,000/year

Grants and Awards

2023   **Empowering Communities to Preserve their Heritage: A Citizen Science Approach to Language Documentation**.
Mitacs Globalink Research Award
Amount: $6000 CAD

2022   **Doctoral Recruitment Award**.
University of Alberta
Amount: $5000 CAD

2022   **Documentation of Zangskar Tibetan**.
Endangered Language Fund (ELF), Language Legacies (LL) Grant.
Amount: $2910 USD

Certificates

Dec 2019   **National Eligibility Test (NET-JRF)**, conducted by National Testing Agency, Government of India. [100 percentile score]

Publications

2022   Dale, Merrion, Prafulla Basumatary, Javid Iqbal, Rex Khullar, and **Shaikh, Maaz.** "Case Study of Using Facebook Groups to Connect Community Users to Archived CoRSAL Content" *Language Documentation & Conservation*, 16. 399–416. https://hdl.handle.net/10125/74685.

Presentations

Refreed Conference Talks

2023   **Shaikh, Maaz.** "The V-a-V-i compounds in Hindi" at *The Alberta Conference On Linguistics (ACOL)*, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Canada, 25 November 2023.

2021   **Shaikh, Maaz.** "A preliminary description of the Azamgarhi language" at *For SEL By SEL Virtual Conference*, Society for Endangered and Lesser-known Languages (SEL India), 11 January 2021.

2019   **Shaikh, Maaz.** "Descriptive phonetics and phonology of Western Sham Ladakhi" at *Two-day National Conference on Phonetics: Theoretical Underpinnings and Research Explorations*, The English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad, India, 19 and 20 November 2019.

Invited/Organized Talks and Training Sessions

2023   "Citizen Science for Documentation and Revitalization of the Zangskari Language". A Seminar at the Government Model Degree College, Padum, Zanskar, Ladakh, India. 5 August 2023

2022   A 5-day training workshop on "Documentation of Zangskari Language" at the Government Model Degree College, Padum, Zanskar, Ladakh, India. 4–8 August 2022 (Documentary Video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIX81jtU1c0, Media coverage here)

"Documentation of the Zangskari Language". A Seminar at the Government Model Degree College, Padum, Zanskar, Ladakh, India. 3 August 2022 (Media Coverage here)

2021   with Prafulla Basumatary, Kenneth Van Bik & Marjing Mayanglambam at CoRSAL Annual Meeting (CoRSAL V) (Virtual) as **Panelists**, 1 October 2022.

Language Documentation & Revitalization Projects

Zangskari (Since September 2020)

Documentation	*Overview*: The project aimed at the documentation and description of Zangskari is a broader goal of my ongoing doctoral research on the language. Besides documentation and description of this endangered Bodic tongue of great significance to the historical-comparative research on Tibetic languages, archiving and revitalization are also involved.

Timeline: Conducted field trips to Zangskar valley, UT of Ladakh, India in:

- Sep–Oct 2020; 2 weeks; pilot study
- Jul-Aug 2022; 2 weeks; funded by the Endangered Language Fund
- Jul-Aug 2023; 6 weeks; funded by MITACS

Archiving	A collection titled "Zangskari Language Resources" is available at the Computational Resources of South Asian Languages (CoRSAL) Archive, University of North Texas Digital Library, UNT. https://digital.library.unt.edu/explore/collections/ZSLR/

ʾAyʾajuthem/Comox-Sliammon (Since January 2023)

Documentation	*Overview*: This project focused on the Homalko of the ʾAyʾajuthem aka Comox-Sliammon language started with the Field Methods course (LING 515) at the University of Alberta. Our class worked with Molly Harry, an elder from the Homalco First Nation. We got an opportunity to work with Molly even after the completion of the course.

Archiving	We contributed towards the ʾAyʾajuthem dictionary of words and phrases for the First Voices project. https://www.firstvoices.com/homalco/

AZAMGARHI (Since December 2019)

DOCUMENTATION	*Overview*: Aimed at the holistic documentation and revitalization of Azamgarhi, this project seeks to raise awareness and attract research towards this underdocumented and lesser-known Awadhic language of the Indo-Aryan family. *Timeline*: Fieldwork conducted in Jan–Feb 2020 and Nov–Dec 2020 in the Azamgarh and Mau districts of Uttar Pradesh, India.
ARCHIVING	The collection includes diverse audio and video recordings, transcriptions, translations, and photographs. It is hosted at the CoRSAL Archive, UNT Digital Library. https://digital.library.unt.edu/explore/collections/AZLR/
REVITALIZATION	Initiatives include a YouTube playlist of children's stories, a Facebook community group, and an Instagram account, facilitating digital engagement with the Azamgarhi language. *Links*: YouTube, Facebook Group, Instagram

BHOJPURI (Since January 2019)

DOCUMENTATION	*Overview*: Focused on the Western Bhojpuri dialect, this project is part of a linguistic comparison study between Bhojpuri and Azamgarhi, highlighting their sociolinguistic relationship. *Timeline*: Fieldwork conducted in Jan–Feb 2020 and Nov–Dec 2020 in the Azamgarh and Mau districts of Uttar Pradesh, India.
ARCHIVING	The collection includes recordings and photographs, emphasizing the Western Bhojpuri dialect and its sociolinguistic influence on Azamgarhi. Hosted at the CoRSAL Archive, UNT Digital Library. https://digital.library.unt.edu/explore/collections/BPLR/

WORKSHOPS/ TRAINING PROGRAMS ATTENDED

2022   *Summer School on Language Documentation*, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, India 17–31 May 2022.

2019   *International workshop on Noun Modifying Constructions and Nominalizations*, Department of Linguistics, Deccan College Post-Graduate Research Institute, Pune, India in collaboration with The National Institute of Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL), Tokyo, Japan and Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, at Deccan College Post-Graduate Research Institute, Pune, India, 19–20 December 2019.

2019   *A Boot Camp on Theoretical and Experimental Phonology*, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, India 22–27 July 2019.

2019   *Workshop on Working with Communities on Language Revitalization*, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, India 27 March to 02 April 2019.

2019   *Workshop on Information and Communication Technology-Forensic Linguistics* organized by CDAC Kolkata and IIT Patna in IIT Patna, Patna, India, 11–12 January 2019.

2018   *3-Week Intensive Training Programme on Introduction to Translation*, National Translation Mission in Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, India, 18 May to 07 June 2018.

Work Experience

Since Sept 2022	*Freelance Urdu Linguist* at PTW. Large Scale Text-to-Speech project (TTS) of the Urdu (India) language *Responsibilities and Achievements*: • Transcription and quality check of transcriptions of a large set of data (›5000 words) • Quality check and reviewing of large set of data for homographs (›4,000 sentences and 35,000 individual words) • Checking for grammatical and semantic correctness of sentences. • Checking spelling and pronunciation of words • Conducting audio analysis and linguistic speech data annotations.
May – Aug 2020	*Freelance Linguist* at LIONBRIDGE. Localization project of the Awadhi language *Responsibilities and Achievements*: • Transcription and verification of transcription of words and sentences for a large dataset • Ensuring accurate spelling and pronunciation of words • Translation of over 2,000 words • Linguistic speech data annotations

Skills

Languages

Native	Urdu, Hindi
Advanced	Azamgarhi (Near-native after fieldwork), English
Intermediate	Marathi, Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Persian/Dari/Tajiki
Beginner	Punjabi, Gujarati, French
Reading	Arabic, Sanskrit, Tibetan
Fieldwork/ Structural Knowledge	Purik/Purgi, Ladakhi, Zangskari, Balti, Comox-Sliammon

Technical

Markup languages:	LaTeX, html
Scripting:	Praat, R
Programming:	C, C++
MS Office:	MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint
Linguistics related:	FLEx, SayMore, Phonology Assistant, Transcriber, ELAN, LexiquePro, and WeSay.
Multimedia:	Audacity, Adobe Premiere Pro, etc.

Membership of professional organizations

• Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL) [since 2019]

- Society for Endangered and Lesser-Known Languages (SEL India)-Lifetime Member [since 2020]
- Linguistic Society of India (LSI)-Lifetime Member [since 2022]