

Curriculum Vitae

Rizwan Ahmad

Assistant Professor,
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EDUCATION

- 2007 **Ph. D. in linguistics**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

Dissertation title: Shifting dunes: changing meanings of Urdu in India
Chair: Robin Queen
Committee members: Sarah Thomason, Deborah Keller-Cohen, Judith Irvine,
and Barbara Metcalf.
- 2005 **M.A. in linguistics**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

Qualifying Research Paper. Scripting a new identity: the battle for Devanagari in
nineteenth century India.
- 2003 **Linguistics Summer Institute**, Linguistic Society of America (LSA). Michigan
State University, East Lansing, MI, USA.
- 1997 **M. Phil. in linguistics**, University of Delhi, Delhi, India.

Thesis: News bulletins in Hindi and Urdu: a study in mutual comprehensibility.
MS.
- 1995 **M.A. in linguistics**, University of Delhi, Delhi, India.

Thesis: Relative clause in Kom. MS.
- 1993 **B.A. (Hons.) in Arabic and linguistics**, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU),
New Delhi.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Theoretical interests: sociolinguistics, language and ethnic, religious, and national identities, language ideology, multilingualism, language policy, language movements, sociolinguistics of orthography, diglossia, and discourse analysis

Field specialization: South Asia with focus on North India

Field interests: the Arabic-speaking World

LANGUAGES

Urdu	Native proficiency
Hindi	Native proficiency
English	Near-native proficiency
Arabic	Near-native proficiency in Yemeni dialect; spoken and written abilities in Modern Standard Arabic
Persian/Farsi	Reading proficiency

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2007-Present **Assistant Professor** of English language and literature, American University of Kuwait, Kuwait.
- 2000-2002 **Lecturer**, Department of English, Women's College, University of Science and Technology, Sana'a Yemen.
- 1997-2000 **Lecturer**, Department of English, University of Science and Technology, Hodeidah, Yemen.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As Assistant Professor

ENGL-300: A history of the English Language

ENGL-204: Business communication

ENGL-101: Approaches to Critical Reading and Writing

ENGL-108: Public Speaking

ENGL-102: Writing and Information Literacy

As Graduate Student Instructor/Teaching Assistant at the University of Michigan

2006 Fall LING/ANTH-370: Language and discrimination, Instructor, Dr. Kathryn Campbell-Kibler, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

2005 Fall LING/ANTH-370: Language and discrimination, Instructor, Prof. Robin Queen, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan.

- 2004 Fall Linguistics-211: Introduction to Language, Instructors, Prof. San Duanmu & Prof. Elaine McNulty, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2004 Winter Linguistics-210, Introduction to Linguistic Analysis, Instructor, Prof. John Lawler, Dept. of Linguistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

As Independent Instructor (full responsibility)

- 2005 Summer Linguistics 211: Introduction to Language. Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2005 Winter College Writing 125, Department of English, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2003 Fall College Writing 125, Department of English, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- Summer 1996 Summer Hindi Program, Department of Linguistics, University of Delhi & University of California, Berkeley.

As Lecturer (full responsibility)

- 1997-2000 Introduction to Language, Introduction to Phonetics and phonology, Introduction to English Syntax, Principles of Language Teaching, English Grammar, and English composition.
- Department of English, University of Science and Technology, Hodeidah, Yemen.
- 2000-2002 Introduction to Language, Introduction to Phonetics and phonology, Introduction to English Syntax, Principles of Language Teaching, English Grammar, and English composition.
- Women's College, University of Science and Technology, Sana'a, Yemen.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, HONORS, AWARDS

- 2009 **Travel Grant**, American University of Kuwait, to present a paper at Linguistics in the Gulf-2. Qatar University, Doha, Qatar. March 11-12, 2009.
- 2008 **Travel Grant**, American University of Kuwait, to present paper at Symposium about language and society (**SALSA-XVI**), University of Texas at Austin, USA.
- 2007 **Research Initiation Grant**, American University of Kuwait, Kuwait.
- 2007 **Travel grant**, International Institute, University of Michigan, to present paper at the LSA-2007 meeting at Anaheim, CA, USA. January 4-7, 2007.

- 2006 Nominated by the Department of Linguistics for Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award, University of Michigan.
- 2006 **Rackham Humanities Candidacy Research Fellowship** for Winter-Summer 2007, Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan.
- Rackham International Research Award**, University of Michigan, to conduct fieldwork research in Old Delhi, India.
- Travel grant**, Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan, to present paper at the Sociolinguistics Symposium-16, July 6-8 2006, University of Limerick, Ireland.
- 2005 **Block grant**, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan, to conduct dissertation fieldwork research in Old Delhi, India.
- Research grant**, Taraknath Das Foundation, Columbia University, New York, to conduct fieldwork research in Old Delhi, India.
- Travel grant**, Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan, to present paper at the International Symposium on Bilingualism, Barcelona, Spain.
- Travel grant**, International Institute, University of Michigan, to present paper at South Asian Linguistic Analysis (SALA-25) at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA.
- 2004 **Rackham discretionary grant** to conduct research at the National Archives of India, New Delhi.
- 2002-2003 **International Institute Fellowship**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2003 **Travel grant**, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia for attending workshop on the Urdu Language Instruction in the USA.
- Block grant**, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan, for summer research.
- 1995-97 **Junior Research Fellowship (JRF)**, University Grants Commission, New Delhi, India towards the completion of an M. Phil. Degree in linguistics.
- 1995 **Gold medal** for outstanding academic achievement in M.A., University of Delhi.
- 1993 **Outstanding undergraduate award**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2008a Scripting a new identity: the battle for Devanagari in nineteenth century India. **Journal of Pragmatics**. 40.7. pp 1163-1183.
- 2008b Unpacking indexicality: Urdu in India. **Proceedings** of the Symposium about Language and Society (**SALSA**), University of Texas at Austin. Vol. 52. pp. 1-9.

INVITED PUBLICATION

- To appear 'How do I know you are not a CBI agent?': the insider/outside issue in sociolinguistic fieldwork. Professor **R. K. Agnihotri Festschrift volume**.

BOOK NOTICE

- 2008 Joseph, John E. 2004. Language and identity: National, ethnic, religious. In **eLanguage**.

Popular writing

- 2008 Trading words: Understanding contact between nations. **The Kuwait Times**. June 24.
- 2006 Old Delhi: A linguistic tapestry. **Milli Gazette**. June 1-15, Delhi.
- 1997 Ghalib's Delhi. **The Pioneer**. 14 March, Delhi.
- 1996 Politics of Poetics. **The Hindustan Times**. 25 August, New Delhi.
- 1996 Linguistic Authoritarianism. **The Indian Express**. 10 February, Delhi.

Work in Preparation

A sociolinguistic study of writing Urdu in Devanagari

Sociolinguistic consequences of migration on the source-population

INVITED TALK

- 2007 Writing for ESL students. **Fatma Bint Al-Yaman Middle School**, Kuwait, November 21, 2008.

- 2006 One language, two scripts; or one script and still two languages: examining Urdu in the Devanagari script. Aligarh Muslim University. India. **Perspectives on contemporary Hindi and Urdu linguistics**. March 29-31 2006.
- 2006 Voices people write: examining Urdu in Devanagari. **Department of Linguistics Colloquium Series**, University of Michigan. December 1, 2006.
- 2006 Fall **Guest lecture** on ‘bilingualism and education ’ for Linguistics 370: Language and discrimination, Instructor, Prof. Kathryn Campbell-Kibler. Oct 26, 2006.
- 2006 Fall **Guest lecture** on ‘multilingualism and code-switching for Ling-111: Introduction to language. Instructors: Prof. Andries Coetzee & Prof. Nick Pharris. University of Michigan, Nov 13, 2006.
- 2005 Fall **Guest lecture** on ‘bilingualism and code-switching ’ for Linguistics 370: Language and discrimination, Instructor, Prof. Robin Queen, University of Michigan. Nov 1, 2005

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2009 Multilingualism in a monolingual country: a case of Kuwait. **Paper** accepted for **Linguistics in the Gulf-2**. Qatar University, Qatar. March 11-12, 2009.
- 2008 Semiotic complexity of Urdu in India. **Paper** presented at Symposium about language and society (**SALSA-XVI**). University of Texas at Austin. April 11-13 2008.
- 2007 Old Wine a new bottle: Urdu in Nagari. **Paper** presented at the **Linguistic Society of America 2007** Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA. Jan 5, 2007.
- 2006 Old language, new script: Urdu in a new outfit. **Poster** presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation (**NWAV-35**). Columbus, Ohio State University, Nov. 9-12, 2006.
- Ideology of change and change of ideology: shifting conceptions of Hindi. **Paper** presented at **Sociolinguistics Symposium 16**, University of Limerick, Ireland July 6-8, 2006 (with Sai Samant).
- 2005 Representations of Hindi in the Dalit resistance movement. **Paper** presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation **NWAV-34**. New York University. Oct 21, 2005 (with Sai Samant)
- Hindi is perfect; Urdu is messy: the sociolinguistic construction of Hindi and Urdu in the nineteenth century. **Paper** presented at South Asian Linguistic Analysis (**SALA-25**), University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. Sep 16-18 2005.

Imaginings of Hindi in the Dalit resistance movement. **Paper** presented at South Asian Linguistic Analysis (**SALA-25**), University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. Sep 16-18 2005 (with Sai Samant).

Scripting a new identity: the battle for Nagari in 19th century India. **Paper** presented at **International Symposium on Bilingualism**, Barcelona, Spain, March 21, 2005.

- 2004 Language ideology and the construction of Hindu/Hindi identity in late 19th century India. **Paper** presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation (**NWAV-33**). Ann Arbor. Oct 2, 2004.
- 2002 Linguistic influences of Arabic on Urdu. **Paper** presented at Faculty of Humanities Colloquium. 25 April 2002. **University of Science and Technology**, Sana'a, Yemen.
- 1996 Hindi, Urdu: A case of lexical divide. **Paper** presented at South Asian Linguistic Analysis (**SALA**). Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (with R. K. Agnihotri)

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- 2007-2008 Curriculum Development Committee, Department of English, American University of Kuwait.
- 2005 Summer Worked on developing 'Linguistics for a multicultural world' undergraduate track. Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2005 Summer Worked on redesigning of the course 'LING-115: languages of the world. Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 2001- 2002 **Acting Head, Department of English**, University of Science & Technology, Sana'a, Yemen.
- 1999-2000 **Founding Coordinator**, Intensive English Language Program, University of Science and Technology, Hodeidah, Yemen.
- 1998-2000 **Member, Examination Committee**, University of Science & Technology, Hodeidah, Yemen.

INDEXING, TRANSLATION, CONSULTING, etc.

- 2004- Urdu language consultant for Lexicon, a US-based branding company that develops and evaluates brand names for commercial products.
- 2004 Prepared the index for the book 'Studies in the history of the English language II: unfolding conversations'. 2004. eds. Anne Curzan and Kimberly Emmons, Mouton De Gruyter.
- 2003 Urdu language consultant on morpho-syntactic tagging of electronic Urdu corpus, Lancaster University, UK.
- 2001-2002 Translator (Arabic into English) for the official magazine of the Yemeni Airlines, Yemenia.
- 1995 Translated several research articles from English into Hindi on theories of teaching, Central Institute of Education, University of Delhi, India.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2008-2009 **Secretary**, Undergraduate Faculty Assembly, American University of Kuwait.
- 2008-2009 **Chair**, Faculty Search Committee, American University of Kuwait.
- 2007-2008 **Member** Curriculum Development Committee, American University of Kuwait.
- 2006 **Member, Admissions Committee**, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan.
- 2005 **Member, Rackham Student Forum**, University of Michigan.
- 2004 **Treasurer**, Graduate Linguists at the University of Michigan (GLaM)
- 2004 **Member, Undergraduate Committee**, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan.
- 2004 **Chair, Book Exhibit Committee**, NWAV 33, University of Michigan.
- 2003 **Member, Colloquium Committee**, University of Michigan.
- 2002 **Member, Newsletter Committee** University of Michigan.
- 1993 **Member, Organizing Committee**, National Seminar on Perspectives on the Eighth Schedule, Center of Linguistics and English, JNU, New Delhi.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Linguistic Society of America 2003-present

REFERENCES

Prof. Robin Queen
Department of Linguistics,
University of Michigan.
Email: rqueen@umich.edu

Prof. Sarah Thomason
Department of Linguistics,
University of Michigan.
Email: thomason@umich.edu