

Seaira Lett

PhD student, Teaching assistant

University of Georgia Department of Linguistics

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EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

Doctorate in Linguistics, University of Georgia 2022-Present

Presidential Graduate Fellow, Linguistics Teaching Assistant

Advisor: Dr. Pilar Chamorro, UGA Department of Linguistics

GPA: 4.0

Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Linguistics, Emory University 2017-2020

Summa cum laude

Phi Beta Kappa, Global Languages and Cultures Cohort

Advisor: Dr. José Luis Boigues, Emory College Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Major GPA: 4.0, Overall GPA: 3.9

Master of Education in Elementary Education, University of Missouri-St. 2020-2022

Louis

GPA: 3.9

State of Missouri Early Childhood Education Initial Teaching Certificate 2022

SCHOLARSHIP

Qualifying Papers

Tense and aspect in San Sebastián Coatán Chuj (Mayan) 2023-2024

The morphosyntax of imperatives in Chuj (Mayan): Support for encoding the addressee in the syntax 2022-2023

Honors Thesis

Syntax and Morphology of San Sebastián Coatán Chuj, a Mayan Language of Guatemala 2019-2020

Highest honors, representing a quality suitable for publication

Advisor: Dr. Marjorie Pak, Emory College Program in Linguistics

Publications

Peer-reviewed

Lett, Seaira. 2023. The morphosyntax of imperatives in Chuj. *UGA Working Papers in Linguistics*, 6, 206-220.

Proceedings

Lett, Seaira. 2024 (To appear). Imperatives in Chuj: Support for encoding the addressee in the syntax. *Proceedings of the Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America - X*.

Journal

Lett, Seaira. 2021. Syntax and Morphology of San Sebastián Coatán Chuj, a Mayan Language of Guatemala. *Emory Undergraduate Research Journal*, 17, 56-71.

Magazine

Lett, Seaira. 2020. Languages of the World: Chuj. *Babel: The language magazine*. 42.

Literary magazines

Lett, Seaira. 2024 (Accepted). ciclo de vida. *El Cid Revista*.

Lett, Seaira. 2024 (Accepted). otoño. *El Cid Revista*.

Lett, Seaira. 2021. Shh. *Bellerive: Interlude*.

Presentations

Invited talk

Documenting Chuj (Maya) in the US. Emory University Program in Linguistics, Atlanta, GA, November 2023.

Conferences

Searching for tense in Chuj (Mayan) (Talk). Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia. Athens, GA, February 2024.

Lett, Seaira & Caroline Schneider. The effect of nativeness on L2 Spanish speakers' grammaticality judgements (Talk). Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia. Athens, GA, February 2024.

Imperatives in Chuj (Mayan): Support for encoding the addressee in the syntax (Talk). Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America X. University of Texas, Austin, TX, November 2023.

The morphosyntax of imperatives in Chuj (Mayan): Support for encoding the addressee in the syntax (Talk). Brussels Conference on Generative Linguistics 16: The morphosyntax of speaker and hearer. Center for Research in Syntax, Semantics, and Phonology, Brussels, Belgium, October 2023.

On the documentation of San Sebastián Coatán Chuj in the US. (Talk). Kaleidoscope Conference 17. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, March 2023.

The morphosyntax of imperatives in Chuj (Mayan). (Talk). University of Miami Graduate Student Conference. Miami, FL, March 2023.

Imperatives in Chuj (Talk). Conference on the Americas 26. Athens, GA, February 2023.

Negation in Chuj (Talk). Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics 6. San Cristobal de Las Casas, Mexico, November 2021.

Negation in Chuj (Talk). Purdue Linguistics Symposium. West Lafayette, IN, April 2021.

Negation in Chuj (Talk). Workshop on American Indigenous Languages. Santa Barbara, CA, April 2021.

Negation Formation in Lulogooli: Four Ways to Say No (with Julie Weschler) (Poster Presentation). National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Kennesaw, GA, April 2019.

Colloquia

Searching for tense in Chuj (Mayan). Linguistics Colloquium 2023. University of Georgia.

Imperatives in Chuj (Mayan): Support for encoding the addressee in the syntax. Linguistics Colloquium 2022. University of Georgia.

Research Grants

Willson Center Graduate Research Award	2023
Emory College Language Center Student Research Grant	2019
Emory University Program in Linguistics Research Grants	2019-2020

Other Projects

Project leader & member, SLAC (Second Language Acquisition and Cognition) Research Group 2022-Present

- Current projects:
 - The acquisition of pro-drop in L3 Japanese (Project leader)
 - Testing the Bottleneck Hypothesis in L2 acquisition of German (Project leader)
 - Emergence of VACs in native speakers of Japanese and Chinese

Ethnologue Contributor 2022-Present

- Two approved contributions on Chuj

AWARDS

Best Graduate Paper, Conference on the Americas	2023
Spotlight on Inclusive Excellence, UGA Department of Linguistics	2023
Award for Excellence in Spanish and Linguistics, Emory University	2020

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching assistant, University of Georgia Department of Linguistics, Athens 2022-Present

- LING2100 The Study of Language (Instructor of record)

Spanish-English kindergarten teacher , Carver Dual Language School, Kansas City	2020-2022
Program Assistant , Amigos de las Américas, Virtual	2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion facilitation in Spanish and English in virtual exchange with high schoolers from the US and South America. • Student mentoring on community service projects. • Logistic/tech support in Zoom meetings. 	
Peer Mentor , Emory College Program in Linguistics, Atlanta	2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LING485 Field Methods, Dr. Yun Kim • Language studied: Tigrinya 	
Research Assistant , Dr. Marjorie Pak, Emory College Program in Linguistics	2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tone in Logooli (Bantu) 	

LEADERSHIP, INVOLVEMENT, & ORGANIZATIONS

Vice President, Linguistics Society at the University of Georgia	2023-2024
Board member, UGA Working Papers in Linguistics	2023-2024
Member, Communications Committee, Linguistics Conference at UGA	2023-2024
Panel organizer, Tense and Aspect in Minoritized Varieties, Linguistics Conference at UGA	2024
Member, Linguistics Society of America	2022-Present
Corps Member, Teach For America	2020-2022
Member, Americorps	2020-2022

LANGUAGES

English (Native), Spanish (Fluent), Japanese (Intermediate), Portuguese (Intermediate), Chuj (Linguistic knowledge)