

Ellie Kuznetsova

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SUMMARY

My research focuses on bilingualism, code-switching, natural language processing, corpus linguistics, and second language acquisition. I am currently working on code-switched minimal pairs for LLM evaluation, sentence embeddings analysis of Spanish-English tangrams corpus, and multilingual keyword search for low-resource languages.

EDUCATION

University of California San Diego

Master of Science: Computational Social Science

Jun 2025 — Present

La Jolla, CA

Northern Arizona University

Master of Arts: Applied Linguistics and Teaching English as a Second Language

Aug 2021 — May 2023

Flagstaff, AZ

Pushkin Leningrad State University

Bachelor of Arts: Linguistics - Translation and Interpretation Studies

Thesis Title: *Dialect Translation in the Novel "The Plague Dogs" by Richard Adams*

Sep 2015 — Jul 2019

Saint Petersburg, Russia

PUBLICATIONS

Under review

Kuznetsova, E., Hanks, E., Eckstein, G., Dikilitas, D., Christenson, C., & Matthews, K. Higher- and lower-order concerns in instructor comments: A corpus-based comparison of screencast feedback and written feedback. Manuscript submitted to *Applied Corpus Linguistics*.

Eckstein, G., Hanks, E., **Kuznetsova, E.**, & Dikilitas, D. The role of feedback modality in student-instructor rapport: A study of screencast and written approaches. Manuscript submitted to *CALICO Journal*.

Newsletters

Kuznetsova, E. (2025, February). Bilingual sarcasm: Production differences across languages. *San Diego CATESOL Newsletter*, 11(1), 3–11. https://catesolsandiego.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/7/8/12786216/catesol_sd_newsletter_spring_2025.pdf

Kuznetsova, E., & Wald, M. (2024, June). CIRT-IG report-Corpus Corner: Unlock the potential of the LANA-CASE Corpus. *CATESOL Newsletter*, 57(2), 34. https://www.catesol.org/docs/CATESOL_NEWSLETTER-Volume_57_Issue_2_FINAL_FINAL2.pdf

Chatham, B., Simons, A., & **Kuznetsova, E.** (2024, June). CATESOL San Diego Chapter & 2024 in-person Spring Conference: "Foster a community of learners in the classrooms and beyond." *CATESOL Newsletter*, 57(2), 5–6. https://www.catesol.org/docs/CATESOL_NEWSLETTER-Volume_57_Issue_2_FINAL_FINAL2.pdf

Thesis

Kuznetsova, E. (2019, May). *Dialect translation in the novel The Plague Dogs by Richard Adams*. Undergraduate thesis, Pushkin Leningrad State University. https://biblioclub.ru/index.php?page=book_view_red&book_id=595183

PRESENTATIONS

Bandopadhyay, O., & **Kuznetsova, E.** (planned for Jun 10, 2026). *Fine-Tuning Transformer-Based Models for Keyword Search in Low-Resource Languages* [Poster presentation]. Computational Social Science Capstone Presentations, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA.

Kuznetsova, E., & Bandopadhyay, O. (planned for May 27, 2026). *Multilingual Keyword Search* [Poster presentation]. Learning, Meaning, and Natural language lab, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA.

Kuznetsova, E. (2026, March 2). *Codeswitching Grammaticality in Language Models* [Lightning talk]. Linguistics Open House, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA.

Kuznetsova, E. (2026, February 22). *Tangrams Codeswitching Corpus Distinctiveness: Word Embeddings in Large Language Models* [Lightning talk]. Transfronterizo Institute Visit to Bilingualism in Context lab, International Mother Language Day, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA.

Kuznetsova, E. (2025, December 2). *Language teacher career at the Defense Language Institute* [Guest lecture]. Career Exploration Day in TSL 5371 course, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

Kuznetsova, E., Hanks, E., Eckstein, G., Dikilitas, D., Christenson, C., & Matthews, K. (2025, November 14). *Screencast technology in the writing classroom: An analysis of feedback types* [Paper presentation]. Sunshine State TESOL Conference, Tampa, FL.

Kuznetsova, E. (2024, October 30). *Russian instructors orientation* [Guest lecture]. Language and Applied Research Center, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA.

Kuznetsova, E. (2024, July 16). *Working at DLIFLC* [Guest lecture]. Language and Applied Research Center, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA.

- Kuznetsova, E.**, Hanks, E., Christenson, C., Dikilitas, D., & Matthews, K. (2023, October 28). *A corpus-based comparison of instructor comments in screencast feedback and written feedback* [Paper presentation]. Symposium on Second Language Writing, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ.
- Eckstein, G., Hanks, E., **Kuznetsova, E.**, & Dikilitas, D. (2023, October 28). *The effect of screencast feedback on quantitative measures of student rapport* [Paper presentation]. Symposium on Second Language Writing, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ.
- Petree, R., Shuvaeva, A., & **Kuznetsova, E.** (2023, February 18). *U.S. education for teachers* [Guest lecture]. EducationUSA Russia, online.
- Kuznetsova, E.** (2023, January 30). *Culture Kitchen: Russia* [Guest lecture]. Culture Connection AZ, hybrid.
- Kuznetsova, E.** (2022, April 25). *Masked morphological priming of regular and irregular forms of past tense verbs: Near-native learners' priming effects* [Poster presentation]. ENG 648 Poster Presentations, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ.
- Kuznetsova, E.** (2022, March 5). *Comparing native and non-native speakers' abilities to teach languages* [Paper presentation]. PEAKS Interdisciplinary Conference, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ.
- Kuznetsova, E.** (2017, September 23). *Translation of art books* [Paper presentation]. Translation and Interpretation Studies Department Internship Conference, Pushkin Leningrad State University, Saint Petersburg, Russia.

AWARDS

Rick Sullivan Award, CATESOL	Sep 2025
\$115 conference registration fee covered	Hayward, CA
Computational Social Science Excellence Award, UC San Diego	Feb 2025
\$16,000 tuition reimbursement	La Jolla, CA
Scholarship Program 2024-2025, AWIS-San Diego & UCSD Extended Studies	Feb 2025
\$1,000 toward course credit	La Jolla, CA
Graduate Teaching Assistantship Award, Northern Arizona University	Mar 2022
Tuition & \$16,000 stipend	Flagstaff, AZ
National Honor Award, Society for Collegiate Leadership & Achievement	Feb 2022
National Honor Recognition	Flagstaff, AZ
English Honor Award, Sigma Tau Delta	Jan 2022
Recognition of Meeting High Academic Standards	Flagstaff, AZ
Graduate Teaching Assistantship Award, Northern Arizona University	Apr 2021
Tuition & \$13,500 stipend	Flagstaff, AZ

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Graduate Student Researcher	Sep 2025 — Present
Learning, Meaning, and Natural Language Lab (PI: Alex Warstadt), UC San Diego	La Jolla, CA
Title: <i>Code-Switching Grammaticality in Language Models</i>	
• Lead the full research lifecycle for a Spanish-English code-switched minimal pairs study. • Develop an end-to-end pipeline for evaluating LLM grammatical knowledge of code-switched minimal pairs. • Create Python scripts for dataset preprocessing, statistical testing, and visualization of model behavior. • Compute and analyze surprisal scores using MINICONS to compare model preferences in grammaticality and acceptability judgments. • Evaluate XLM-RoBERTa and Llama 3 on code-switched data and compare predictions against human judgments. • Supervise and mentor undergraduate research assistants in sentence generation, quality control, documentation, and data management workflows.	
Graduate Student Researcher	Sep 2025 — Present
Bilingualism in Context Lab (PI: Anne Beatty-Martinez), UC San Diego	La Jolla, CA
Title: <i>Codeswitching: A Tool for Opportunistic Speech Planning</i>	
• Build end-to-end R pipelines for cleaning, restructuring, and analyzing repeated-reference bilingual interaction datasets. • Compare word embeddings using fastText multilingual vectors, cosine similarity, and t-SNE visualizations. • Implement mixed-effects regression models to quantify convention formation over repeated interactions.	
Graduate Student Researcher	Sep 2025 — Present
Phonetics Lab (PI: Will Styler), UC San Diego	La Jolla, CA
Title: <i>Multilingual Keyword Search</i>	
• Fine-tune and evaluate a transformer-based ZIPA model for keyword search in unseen low-resource languages. • Validate audio transcriptions to improve training and evaluation reliability. • Develop Python pipelines for model training, inference, and evaluation. • Analyze the performance of the multilingual speech model in low-resource language settings for keyword search.	
Independent Research	Apr 2022 — Oct 2025
Northern Arizona University	Flagstaff, AZ
Title: <i>Writing Feedback Corpus</i>	

- Led the end-to-end research process, including study design, project planning, timeline coordination, task delegation, and team leadership.
- Built a Writing Feedback Corpus (WFC), intended for open-access public release.
- Annotated, transcribed, and coded corpus data; reviewed research assistant work for quality control and consistency.
- Authored the introduction, literature review, methods, and references; contributed to the discussion, limitations, and conclusion sections.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Russian Instructor

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center

Jan — Jul 2025

Monterey, CA

- RU 102: Elementary Russian II
- RU 110: Elementary Russian Conversation
- RU 201: Intermediate Russian I
- RU 210: Intermediate Russian Conversation
- RU 301: Advanced Russian I
- RU 310: Advanced Russian Conversation

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Northern Arizona University

Aug 2021 — May 2023

Flagstaff, AZ

- ENG 105: Critical Reading and Writing in the University Community (instructor of record)
- ENG 205: The Academic Writer's Workshop (instructor of record)
- ENG 405: Writing Commons: Writing, Research, Design, Presentation
- ENG 100: English Composition: Writing Center

ESL Instructor/Curriculum Developer

Northern Arizona University

Jun — Aug 2022

Flagstaff, AZ

- ENG 85X: Program in Intensive English: Semi-intensive English for Academic Purposes - Level Five
- ENG199: English for university preparedness

ESL Instructor

Coconino Community College

Jan — Apr 2022

Flagstaff, AZ

- Tutored a hearing-impaired student via the usage of English, Russian, and ASL, focusing on reading and writing as primary modes of instruction.

SERVICE

Professional

- Program and Presenter Coordinator, Conference Committee, CATESOL State Conference, 2026
- Poster Judge, Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair, AWIS San Diego, 2026
- Program and Presenter Coordinator, Conference Committee, CATESOL State Conference, 2025
- Webmaster, WIST Conference, AWIS San Diego, 2025
- Local Team Volunteer Leader, TESOL 2025 International Convention & Expo, 2024-25
- Poster Session Coordinator, Conference Committee, CATESOL State Conference, 2024
- Conference Committee, CATESOL San Diego Chapter In-Person Spring Conference, 2024
- Conference Committee, PEAKS Conference, 2022, 2023
- Volunteer, American Association for Corpus Linguistics Conference, 2022

Institutional

University of California San Diego

- Co-founder, Europa House, CSI Student Organization, 2025 – present
- Conversation Partner, English-in-Context (EIA) Conversation Program, ISEO, 2025 – present
- Abstract Reviewer (*ad hoc*), California Meeting on Psycholinguistics [8], UC Davis, 2025

Northern Arizona University

- Corpus Coder, LANA Linguistics, 2024
- Manuscript Reviewer (*ad hoc*), Applied Linguistics Press, 2024
- Data Management, LANA Linguistics, 2023-24
- Corpus Recruiter, LANA Linguistics, 2022-24
- Language Teaching Rater, English Department, 2023
- Graduate Student Mentor, English Department, 2022-23

San Diego State University

- Volunteer, Russian Immersion Course, 2024, 2025
- Volunteer, Explore Open House, 2024
- Interviewee, Russian Immersion Course, 2023

SKILLS

Programming: Python, R, SQL, $\LaTeX$

NLP: Hugging Face Transformers, LLM evaluation, prompting, multilingual NLP, embeddings, fastText, keyword spotting

ML: fine-tuning, inference, classification, regression, dimensionality reduction (t-SNE), cross-validation

Libraries: pandas, NumPy, scikit-learn, PyTorch, matplotlib, seaborn, tidyverse, ggplot2, lme4, text2vec, Rtsne

Tools: Git, GitHub, Jupyter, RStudio, Tableau, Praat, ELAN, Qualtrics

Languages: Russian, English, French, American Sign Language

CERTIFICATIONS

Presenter Certificate, SSTESOL Conference, 2025

Social and Behavioral Research, CITI Program, 2025

Award Certificate, AWIS San Diego & UCSD Extension, 2025

Professional Development Certificate, TESOL, 2025

Professional Development Certificate, CATESOL, 2024

Russian OPI Certificate, ACTFL, 2023

AFFILIATIONS

Europa House Club, UC San Diego

French Fridays Club, UC San Diego

TESOL International Association (TESOL)

Association for Women in Science (AWIS)

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages in California (CATESOL)

Arizona Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (AZTESOL)

Graduate English Organization, Northern Arizona University

Graduate Student Association of Applied Linguistics, Northern Arizona University

American Sign Language Club, Northern Arizona University

Sigma Tau Delta, Northern Arizona University