

ALEKA AKOYUNOGLU BLACKWELL

Associate Professor, English Department
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Middle Tennessee State University
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EDUCATION

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, Boston, Massachusetts.

Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics, May 1998.

Dissertation: *Adjectives in Acquisition: On the Semantic and Syntactic Development of English Adjectives*. The dissertation analyzes 8,500 child utterances to determine syntactic and semantic developmental trends in the acquisition of adjectives by three preschool children.

Committee: Drs. Marco Haverkort, Jean Berko Gleason, Catherine Snow, and Cathy O'Connor.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, Bloomington, Indiana.

Language Education Graduate Program, 1991-1992.

Summer Workshop in Russian and East European Languages, Summer 1990.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, Urbana, Illinois.

M.A. in Slavic Linguistics, May 1991.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, Evanston, Illinois.

B.S. in Journalism, June 1989. Double major in Slavic Languages and Literatures.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor, English Department, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN, 2006 – present.

Research Associate, Language Technologies Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, summer 2019.

Assistant Professor, English Department, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN, 2001 – 2006.

Lecturer in English & Department Chair, General Studies Department, South College, Knoxville, Tennessee, June 1996 – July 2001.

Lecturer in Language Acquisition, Graduate and Continuing Education, Framingham State College, Framingham, Massachusetts, January 1993 – December 1994.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Applied Linguistics Program, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, August 1993-May 1994.

Associate Instructor, Student Academic Center, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, August 1991 – August 1992.

Teaching Assistant of Russian, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana, Illinois, August 1991 – May 1993.

PUBLICATIONS

Blackwell, A. A. & Flipse, J. (2019). An item-response theory analysis of the Verb Subordinates Test. *Selected Papers on Theoretical and Applied Linguistics from 23rd ISTAL, Thessaloniki 31 March – 2 April 2017*, 45-59. <https://doi.org/10.26262/istal.v23i0.7320>

Blackwell, A. A. (2019). A cluster analysis approach to assessing vocabulary and targeting intervention. *Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on the Mental Lexicon, 1*, e103. <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-7t3m-c874>

Wang, L. & Blackwell, A. A. (2015). "Effects of Dual Coded Multimedia Instruction Employing Image Morphing on Learning a Logographic Language." *Journal of Educational Multimedia and Hypermedia*, 24(3), 281-313.

Blackwell, A. A. (2013). No smoke without fire. In Radev, D. (ed.), *Puzzles in Logic, Language and Computation: The Green Book* (pp. 26-7, 116-8). New York: Springer.

Blackwell, A. A. (2011). Review article of М. Л. Кисилиер (отв. ред.), *Лингвистическая и этнокультурная ситуация в селах Приазовья. По материалам экспедиций 2001–2004 годов*. Санкт-Петербург: Алетейя [M. L. Kisilier (ed.), *The Linguistic and Ethno-Cultural Situation in the Greek Villages of the Azov Region: Based on Materials from the 2001-2004 Expedition*, St. Petersburg: Aleteya, 2009, p. 448], *Journal of Greek Linguistics*, 11 (2), 275-279.

Blackwell, A. A. & Olson, C. (2008). The nature of the nominals modified by adjectives in the input. *Proceedings of the Child Language Seminar 2007*, University of Reading, UK.

Blackwell, A. A. (2005). Acquiring the English adjective lexicon: relationships with input properties and adjectival semantic typology. *Journal of Child Language*, 32 (3), 535-562.

Blackwell, A. A. (2002). Review article of *Language and Gesture* [D. McNeil (ed.), University of Chicago Press], *Southern Journal of Linguistics*, 26 (2), 115-120.

Blackwell, A. A. (2001). On the acquisition of the syntax of English adjectives. In J. Boyle, J. Lee, and A. Okrent (eds.), *CLS 36, Volume 2: The Panels*. Proceedings of the Chicago Linguistic Society's Annual Meeting. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 361-375.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Blackwell, A. A. (2018) "A Cluster Analysis Approach to Assessing Vocabulary and Targeting Intervention" Poster presented at The 11th International Conference on the Mental Lexicon. Edmonton, Alberta. Sept. 25-28, 2018.

Blackwell, A. A. (2017) "A Cluster Analysis Approach to Assessing Vocabulary and Targeting Intervention." Paper presented at the 23rd International Symposium on Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Thessaloniki, Greece, March 31 – April 2, 2017.

Blackwell, A. A., & Cooper, J. (2017) "An IRT Analysis of the *Verb Subordinates Test*." Poster presented at the 23rd International Symposium on Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Thessaloniki, Greece, March 31 – April 2, 2017.

Blackwell, A. A. (2016). "Employing cluster analysis in assessing vocabulary knowledge and targeting intervention." Paper presented at the Texas Language Education Research Conference 2016, Feb. 19-20, San Antonio, TX.

Blackwell, A. A. (2016). "Rethinking lexical categories in vocabulary testing: The case for verbs." Poster presented at the Texas Language Education Research Conference 2016, Feb. 19-20, San Antonio, TX.

Blackwell, A., Cooper, J., & Kim, J. (2014). "A New Measure of Native Speaker Lexical Competence: The *Verb Associates Test*." Poster presented at the 9th International Conference on the Mental Lexicon, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2014, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada.

Blackwell, A.A., Kim K., & Kim, J. (2013). "A psychometric evaluation of the *Word Associates Test* as a measure of native English speakers' vocabulary knowledge." Paper presented at the First Annual Literacy Research Conference, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN, January 16, 2013.

Blackwell, A.A. "On the validity of timed lexical decision tasks as measures of vocabulary." Poster presented at the Ninth Annual EALTA (European Association for Language Testing and Assessment) Conference, Innsbruck, Austria, May 29-31, 2012.

Blackwell, A.A., Brock, M., Davis, D., Price, S., & Shoults, D. "Assessing breadth and depth of vocabulary knowledge: A comparison of four vocabulary tasks." Poster presented at the Child Language Seminar CLS 2011, Newcastle University, UK, June 12-14, 2011.

Blackwell, A.A. "Phonological changes in the Mesta, Chios, dialect: Evidence from three generations of women." Paper presented at the 9th International Conference on Greek Linguistics, Chicago, October 29-31, 2009.

Blackwell, A.A. "Phonological changes in the Mesta dialect in three generations of women." Paper presented at the 4th International Conference of Modern Greek Dialects and Linguistic Theory, Chios, Greece, June 11-14, 2009.

Blackwell, A. A. & Olson, C. "The nature of the nominals modified by adjectives in the input." Poster presented at the Child Language Seminar CLS 2007, University of Reading, UK, July 18-20, 2007.

Blackwell, A.A. "The effect of context on the interpretation of ADJ+N combinations." Paper presented at the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL), 27-29 April, 2006, Auburn University, Alabama.

Blackwell, A.A. "Integrating web-based computer-assisted instruction in English grammar courses." Paper presented the Southern Atlantic Modern Language Association meeting of SECOL, 12-14 November, 2004, Roanoke, Virginia.

Blackwell, A.A. "The effect of input on adjective acquisition by young children," Paper presented at the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL), University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, April 15-17, 2004.

Blackwell, A.A. "Where input and child language diverge: an analysis of the adjective lexicon of two children and their mothers." Paper presented at the Child Language Seminar CLS 2003, Newcastle University, UK, July 9-11, 2003.

Blackwell, A.A. "The effect of the semantic typology of a lexical class on its acquisition: Evidence from young children's acquisition of English adjectives." Paper presented at the IU workshop on Bootstrapping in Language Acquisition: Psychological, Linguistic, and Computational Aspects, Bloomington, Indiana, April 21-23, 2003.

Blackwell, A.A. "The semantic composition of the adjective lexicon of three preschool children," Paper presented at the 2003 Kentucky Foreign Language Conference/Linguistics Section, University of Kentucky, Lexington, April 25, 2003.

Blackwell, A.A. "Before and after three: young children's pattern in the acquisition of human propensity adjectives." Paper presented at SAMLA/SECOL LXVII, Baltimore, MD, November 15, 2002.

Blackwell, A.A. "Young children's strategies for negotiating the meaning of adjectives." Paper presented at the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics LXVI, Memphis, TN, April 17, 2002.

Blackwell, A.A. "Promoting and evaluating lexical diversity in college essays." Roundtable presentation at College Conversations Roundtable on Class, Culture, Language, and Language Change. Ninetieth Annual Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, November 16-21, 2000, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Blackwell, A.A. "On the acquisition of the syntax of English adjectives." Paper presented at the 36th Annual Conference of the Chicago Linguistic Society, April 27-29, 2000.

Ph.D. DISSERTATION SUPERVISION

MTSU Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program (<https://www.mtsu.edu/programs/literacy-studies-phd/info>)

Principal Advisor

Wang, Ling (2013). *The Effects of Single and Dual Coded Multimedia Instructional Methods on Chinese Character Learning*.

Second Reader

Cooper, Jennifer (2016). *Examining Incidental Vocabulary Acquisition by Person- and Item-Level Factors in Secondary Students*.

Brock, Melissa (2015). *The Relationship between Prosodic Processing at the Sentence Level and Reading Performance in Children: An Electrophysiological Investigation*.

Powell, Erica (2013). *Predicting College Students' First Year Success: Should "soft skills" be taken into consideration to more accurately predict the retention and academic achievement of college freshmen?*

Third Reader

Jung, Sang Hee (2017). *Metrical Stress Sensitivity and Reading Skills in Adults*.

Hasty, Michelle (2014). *How Students' Critical Engagement with Text and Self-Perceptions as Literate Learners Can Explain Literacy Performance and Inform Classroom Literacy Practice*.

Fourth Reader

Thomas, Davonna (2013). *Structured Literature Circles: The Impact of a Supplemental Program on Post-Secondary Developmental Reading Students*.

M.A. THESIS SUPERVISION

Department of English, MTSU**Principal Advisor**

Olson, Collin (2014). *A Corpus-Based Study of the Function and Structure of Numeral Classifier Constructions in S'gaw Karen*.

Chiba, Mayumi (2004). *Lexical Acquisition through Interactive Instruction in the Japanese EFL Classroom*.

Second Reader

Xu, Taffy. (2015). *Telicity, Aspect, and the Creation of 'Fictional Truth': Lubomír Doležel's Contributions to Understanding Cognition and Metaphor*.

Department of Psychology, MTSU**Second Reader**

Cari, Pugh (2006). *Object Properties and Initial Word Acquisition*.

Third Reader

Hubbard, Tyler (2012). *Spatial Configuration of Vertically Related Word Pairs Modulates the N400 Component*.

Tillman, Rick (2011). *The Blame Game: Language, Agentic Wording, and Responsibility*.

Honors College, MTSU**Principal Advisor**

Grimes, Andrew (2002). *Phonological Quality Markers Perceived in Southern American English*.

Department of Linguistics, University of Hong Kong**External Examiner**

Fung, Wei Yan. (2012). *Developing Descriptions: The Emergence of Cantonese Adjectival Constructions in a Bilingual Child*.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (EXTERNAL)

Founder & Organizer of the Annual MTSU Linguistics Olympiad, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN, 2007 – present. www.mtsu.edu/lo

Co-Chair of the North American Computational Linguistics Competition (NACLO), 2019 – present. www.nacloweb.org

Coach for the U.S. and Canadian teams at the International Linguistics Olympiad, 2016 – present. www.ioling.org/results/USA

Member of the NACLO Program Committee and of the Organizing Committee, 2009 – present.

Member of the English Language Computational Linguistics Olympiads (ELCLO), 2010 – present.

Juror/Grader for NACLO, 2010 – present.

Juror/Grader for the All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO), 2010.

Local Organizer for the NACLO at MTSU, 2008 – present. <https://mtsu.edu/lo/naclo.php>

Event Organizer (*Write It Do It* for Divisions B & C), Tennessee Regional Science Olympiad, 2005 – 2007 & Tennessee State Science Olympiad, 2008 – present.

Reviewer, *Journal of Child Language* (Cambridge University Press)

MTSU PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (INTERNAL/ABRIDGED)

Program Development

MTSU Ph.D. Program in Literacy Studies Faculty, 2002 – 2015. (Program founding member)

MTSU Minor in Linguistic Studies Faculty, 2002 – present. (Program founding member)

IRB Service

MTSU Institutional Review Board, Member, 2004 – present.

MTSU IRB Co-chair, 2016 – present.

MTSU Online

Online Faculty Mentor, 2008 – present.

Certified Online Instructor (designation earned in 2008)

Selected Committee Service

Tenure & Promotion Committee, English Department, 2008, 2014 (committee chair in 2014)

Search Committees: Tenure Track Position in Literacy Studies (2006, 2009, 2012), Tenure Track Position in English/Linguistics (2005, 2019).

Writer/Evaluator, Preliminary Exams in Linguistics for English Graduate Program (2003-2018) and Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program (2009-2015).

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Assessment Coordinator, English Department, Middle Tennessee State University, 2015 – present. Coordinator of General Education Writing outcomes (ENGL 1010 and ENGL 1020).

Practicum Coordinator, Ph.D. Program in Literacy Studies, Middle Tennessee State University, 2010 – 2015. Supervised practicum placements.

Department Chair, General Studies Department, South College, Knoxville, Tennessee, January 1997 – July 2001. Served as the chair of a department of approximately 15 faculty and coordinated the Institutional Effectiveness process leading to the college's successful initial SACS accreditation in 2001.

Program Assistant, Boston University Program in Applied Linguistics, Boston, Massachusetts, August 1993 – August 1994.

Conference Coordinator, 18th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, Massachusetts, January 1994.

GRANTS

Recipient

MTSU Public Service Grants (annually 2007 - 2019).

MTSU Instructional Technology Development Grants, summer 2004 and summer 2007.

MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activity Grants, 2002-2003, summer 2003, 2003-2004.

Linguistic Consultant

Awarded

NSF Grant (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019). *Workshop: International Computational Linguistics Olympiad*. Dr. Lori Levin, Carnegie Mellon University, Principal Investigator

Under Review

NSF Grant Proposal (2020). *Small -- Edutorial -- Improving Student and Employee Training Using Effective Intelligent Autodidactic Platforms*. Dr. Drago Radev, Yale University, Principal Investigator.

NSF Grant (2020). *Workshop: International Computational Linguistics Olympiad*. Dr. Lori Levin, Carnegie Mellon University, Principal Investigator.

HONORS/AWARDS

MTSU Outstanding Public Service Award, 2015.

MTSU Outstanding Teacher Award, 2006.

South College Distinguished Teaching Award, 1997, 2000.