

EDUCATION

Stony Brook University

Ph.D. in Computational Linguistics. Advisor: Owen Rambow

Stony Brook, NY

Aug 2022 – Present

University of Saskatchewan

M.A. in Applied Linguistics. Advisor: Zhi Li

Saskatoon, Canada

Sep 2019 – May 2021

Hunan University

B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature

Changsha, China

Sep 2015 – Jun 2019

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

- **Data Scientist Intern**, The Home Depot May 2024 – Aug 2024
 - Developed a clustering-based topic modeling pipeline reducing LLM runtime and API calls by 90+%. Further eliminated redundancy in the raw identified topics by 80+%
 - Finetuned SBERT embeddings to build an efficient semantic search network (with Faiss) to select most likely customer pain points
 - Fine-tuned BERT-like models and LLMs (e.g., full fine-tuning and PEFT) to predict customer pain points
 - Built various LLM-based autonomous validation systems (e.g., multi-agent debating), saving up to 24% in manual annotation efforts

PUBLICATIONS & MANUSCRIPTS

Book Chapters

1. Makarova, V., Li, Z. & **Wang, Z.** (2024). Can ChatGPT Grade Non-Native Academic English Writing? In *AI Approaches to Literacy in Higher Education*, page 97-116.
2. **Wang, Z.** (2023). Probabilistic Linguistic Knowledge and Token-level Text Augmentation. In *Practical solutions for Diverse Real-World NLP Applications*, page 1-20. Springer book series *Signals and Communication Technology*.

Articles

1. Li, Z., Makarova, V. & **Wang, Z.** (2023). Developing Literature Review Writing Skills through an Online Writing Tutorial Series: Corpus-based Evidence. *Frontiers in Communication*.
2. Hao, H., Cui, Y., **Wang, Z.** & Kim, Y. (2022). Thirty-Two Years of IEEE VIS: Authors, Fields of Study and Citations. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*.
3. Peng, L., & **Wang, Z.** (2017). The Contemporary Reflection on the Sentence-based Theory Postulated by New Grammar of Modern Chinese. *Journal of Hengyang Normal University*.

Proceedings

1. **Wang, Z.** & Rambow, O. (2024). Clustering Document Parts: Detecting and Characterizing Influence Campaigns From Documents. *Proceedings of the 6th Workshop on Natural Language Processing and Computational Social Science*. (Collocated at NAACL 2024)

2. Li, Z., Makarova, V. & **Wang, Z.** (2023). Assessment of Academic ESL Writing in an Online Tutorial for Graduate Students. *Proceedings of the 22nd European Conference on e-Learning: ECEL 2023*.
3. **Wang, Z.** (2023). Learning Transductions and Alignments with RNN Seq2seq Models. *Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Grammatical Inference*. In *Proceedings of Machine Learning Research, Volume 217*.
4. **Wang, Z.** (2022). Linguistic Knowledge in Data Augmentation for Natural Language Processing: An Example on Chinese Question Matching. *Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Natural Language and Speech Processing*.
5. **Wang, Z.** (2022). Random Text Perturbations Work, but not Always. *Proceedings of the 3rd Workshop on Evaluation and Comparison of NLP Systems (co-located at ACL 2022)*.

Manuscripts

1. **Wang, Z.**, Makarova, V., Li, Z., Kodner, J. & Rambow, O. (2025). LLMs can Perform Multi-Dimensional Analytic Writing Assessments: A Case Study of L2 Graduate-Level Academic English Writing. Preprint arXiv 2502.11368.
2. **Wang, Z.**, Kodner, J. & Rambow, O. (2024). Exploring the Zero-Shot Capabilities of LLMs Handling Multiple Problems at once. Preprint arXiv 2406.10786.
3. **Wang, Z.** (2021). A Macroscopic Re-examination of Language and Gender: A Corpus-based Case Study in University Instructor Discourses. MA Dissertation, University of Saskatchewan.
4. **Wang, Z.** (2019). Analysis on the quantitateness of reduplication in Modern Mandarin. BA Dissertation (in Chinese), Hunan University.
5. **Wang, Z.** (2017-2019). Grammar as science: Rethinking the construction of Modern Chinese Grammar. Granted project (outcomes are 99 pages/11 papers in Chinese) for the National Student Innovation Training Program.

AWARDS & HONORS

• Junior Researcher Award , Institute for Advanced Computational Science	2024
• Distinguished Travel Award , Graduate Student Organization	2023
• Professional Development Award , Graduate Student Employees Union	2023
• Mitacs Globalink Graduate Fellowship , Mitacs	2019
• Excellent Graduate of the year , Hunan University	2019
• Chinese Government Scholarship , China Scholarship Council	2018
• The First-Class Scholarship , Hunan University	2017, 2018
• National Student Innovation Training Program Grant , Ministry of Education of China	2017
• Triple-A student , Hunan University	2016
• National Scholarship , Ministry of Education of China	2016

RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT

• Research Assistant , under Owen Rambow, SUNY Research Foundation	Jan 2025 – Present
Achieving Common Ground Through Language and Vision in Mixed-Initiative Human-Machine Communication.	
• Research Assistant , under Owen Rambow, SUNY Research Foundation	May 2023 – May 2024
DARPA-funded project: Influence Campaigns Awareness and Sensemaking (INCAS).	
• Research Assistant , under Veronika Makarova & Zhi Li, University of Saskatchewan	May 2020 – Jun 2021
Assessing the development of Academic ESL Writing by international graduate students.	
• Research Assistant , under Benjamin V. Tucker, University of Alberta	Summer 2018
Phonological perceptions of Chinese English learners for reduced English sounds.	

TEACHING EMPLOYMENT

- **LIN120: Language and Technology.** Teaching Assistant Fall 2024
Instructor: Owen Rambow. Stony Brook University.
- **Summer Youth Camp in Computational Linguistics.** Instructor Aug 2023
Organizer: Jeffrey Heinz, Stony Brook University
- **LIN335: Computational Linguistics.** Teaching Assistant Spring 2023
Instructor: Jordan Kodner. Stony Brook University.
- **LIN120: Language and Technology.** Teaching Assistant Fall 2022
Instructor: Owen Rambow. Stony Brook University.

CERTIFICATES

- **Machine Learning Specialization,** Deeplearning.AI 2022
- **Practical Data Science on the AWS Cloud,** Deeplearning.AI 2022
- **Deep Learning Specialization,** Deeplearning.AI 2021
- **Machine Learning,** Stanford Online 2021
- **Deep Learning Based Natural Language Processing,** Baidu PaddlePaddle 2021

SKILLS

- **Programming:** Python, R, L^AT_EX, Octave, HTML, C/C++, Haskell, Bash
- **Frameworks:** LangChain, Transformers, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras, PaddlePaddle, NumPy, Jax, scikit-learn
- **Cloud Computing:** Google Cloud Platform, AWS
- **Languages:** Mandarin, English, Fuzhou Dialect

PRESENTATIONS

Talks

1. **Wang, Z.**, Kodner, J. & Rambow, O. November 2024. Exploring the Zero-Shot Capabilities of LLMs Handling Multiple Problems at once. All Things Language And Computation (ATLAC) seminar, Stony Brook University.
2. **Wang, Z.** July 2023. Learning Transductions and Alignments with RNN Seq2seq Models. The 16th International Conference on Grammatical Inference (ICGI), Rabat, Morocco.
3. **Wang, Z.** March 2023. Understanding how RNN seq2seq models learn alignment. SYNC (STONY BROOK, YALE, NYU, CUNY Linguistics Conference) 2023, Yale University.
4. **Wang, Z.** December 2022. Linguistic Knowledge in Data Augmentation for Natural Language Processing: An Example on Chinese Question Matching. The 5th International Conference on Natural Language and Speech Processing, Online.
5. **Wang, Z.** October 2022. Random Text Perturbations Work, but not Always. The 3rd Workshop on Evaluation and Comparison of NLP Systems (co-located at AACL 2022), Online.

Posters

1. **Wang, Z.** & Rambow, O. June 2024. Clustering Document Parts: Detecting and Characterizing Influence Campaigns From Documents. The 6th Workshop on Natural Language Processing and Computational Social Science (Collocated with NAACL 2024). Mexico City.
2. **Wang, Z.** April 2023. Exploring RNN Seq2seq Models via Transduction Tasks that Require Alignments. The 10th Mid-Atlantic Student Colloquium on Speech, Language and Learning (MASC-SLL 2023), George Mason University.
3. **Wang, Z.** April 2023. Probing the learning capabilities of RNN seq2seq models. IACS (Institute for Advanced Computational Science) Research Day, Stony Brook University.
4. **Wang, Z.** March 2023. Probing the learning capabilities of RNN seq2seq models. The 47th Penn Linguistics Conference, University of Pennsylvania.
5. **Wang, Z.**, Tucker, B. V. & Mukai, Y. August 2018. How does Chinese learner of English perceive and comprehend phonetic reduction? Summer Poster Symposium, University of Alberta.

REVIEWING

- COLING 2025 Industry Track
Reviewed three papers.

SERVICE

- Secretary Sep 2024 – Present
Graduate Student Organization, IACS, Stony Brook University
- Social media manager Aug 2024 – Present
Linguistics Department, Stony Brook University
- Skillz Hour organizer Sep 2023 – Dec 2023
Linguistics Department, Stony Brook University
- Student organizer Aug 2022 – May 2023
Mathematical Linguistics Reading Group, Stony Brook University
- ESL classroom volunteer Dec 2019 – Mar 2020
The Global Gathering Place, Saskatoon
- Co-founder and president May 2016 – Jun 2019
Hunan University Student Ambassadors Association, Hunan University
- Student organizer May 2019
University of Regina's China Study Tour (4 weeks), Hunan University
- Volunteer and interpreter Sep 2018
UNESCO conference "Role of linguistic diversity" (3 days), Changsha

AFFILIATION

- Member of Institute for Advanced Computational Science, SBU Mar 2023 – Present
- BIAS National Science Foundation Research Traineeship Jun 2023 – Present
- Association for Computational Linguistics Feb 2022 – Present
- Linguistics Society of America Apr 2023 – Apr 2024

Last updated on February 18, 2025