Devin Alexander Tankersley

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Résumé

I'm a PhD student at the University of New Mexico Linguistics Department. My academic interests include the interaction of syntax and phonology, sign language documentation, and language education.

Education

PhD, University of New Mexico, Department of Linguistics		2020 - present
MA, National Tsing Hua University, Institute of Linguistics		2014 - 2018

Thesis: "Cross-Modality Learning and Pronoun Interpretation: a case study of Taiwan Sign Language"

BA, University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Linguistics   2007 - 2011

Academic Placements

University of New Mexico: 2022 - present
Research Assistant, Lobo Language Acquisition Lab
Aided in research on acquisition of signed and spoken languages by deaf and hard-of-hearing children; coordinated activities for grad student researchers.

Hongkuo Delin University of Technology: 2018 - 2020
Lecturer, Department of Applied English
Classes taught include: primary school English education, listening skills, presentation writing and delivery, intermediate and advanced conversation

Service & Professional Development

President   High Desert Linguistics Society
University of New Mexico   8/2021 - 8/2023
Served a two-year position in the Linguistics Department graduate student association. Contributed to the planning and execution of HDLS 15, as well as many other events.

Journal Articles

Tankersley, Devin; Morford, Jill P. (submitted). Intersubjective Modulation of Exophoric Demonstratives in ASL.

Tankersley, Devin. (under revision). Handshape Distribution in Taiwan Sign Language: Reassessing the Role of Ease of Articulation.

Su, Yi-ching; Hsieh, Ho-Yun; Tankersley, Devin; Chen, Chia-Hsing. (2023) On Null-Subject Languages and the Overt Pronoun Constraint: A Comparison of English, Mandarin and Japanese. *Second Language Research.*

Tankersley, Devin. (2022) A preliminary analysis of interrogative non-manual marker distribution in American Sign Language. *Proceedings of the Fifty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society.*

Non-refereed Publications

Tankersley, Devin. (2023) Broadening Bilingualism: the Case for Deaf Dual Language Education. *Soleado*, Summer 2023.

Conference Presentations

Tankersley, Devin, & Morford, Jill P. (2023) "Not that, *that*": Coordinating joint attention through featural modulation in ASL demonstratives. 16th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany, August 7-11.

Tankersley, Devin. (2021) Asking & Questioning: a look at the distribution of interrogative non-manual markers in American Sign Language. 57th Chicago Linguistics Society, University of Chicago, Illinois, USA, May 6-8.

Tankersley, Devin. (2019) Embedded Pronominal Resolution and Cross-Modality Acquisition: a Case Study on TSL and Mandarin. Second International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics (ICTEAP-2), Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, March 16-17.

Tankersley, Devin. (2016) What Gets Borrowed and How: a Case Study of Loanwords from Chinese in Taiwan Sign Language. 17th National Conference on Linguistics, Tatung University, Taipei, Taiwan, March 24-25.

Tankersley, Devin. (2011) A Phonetic and Phonological Examination of Polar Questions in Shanghainese. Linguistics Undergraduate Research Conference 2011, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA, June 3.

Poster Presentations

Tankersley, Devin. (accepted) Re-evaluating the Role of Ease of Articulation: Analyzing Handshape Distribution in Taiwan Sign Language. Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research 15, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, January 14 - 17, 2025.

Tankersley, Devin; Crudo, Martin; Geer, Leah. (accepted) Cabbage Is Shaped Like Your Head: The Impact of Iconicity and Mnemonic Narratives on ASL Vocabulary Recall. Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research 15, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, January 14 - 17, 2025.

Tankersley, Devin. (2022) Analyzing Handshape Distribution in Taiwan Sign Language: a pilot study using the TSL Lexical Database. Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research 14, Osaka, Japan, September 26 - October 1, 2022.

Tankersley, Devin. (2017) Cross-Modality Learning and the Overt Pronoun Constraint: a Case Study on Taiwan Sign. First International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics (ICTEAP-1), Chinese University of Hong Kong, March 10-12.

Invited Presentations

Morford, Jill; Farrell, Rikki; Johnson, Evelyna; Tankersley, Devin. (2024) Grappling with variation and linguistic bias. Online workshop produced for the Lobo Language Acquisition Lab, UNM.

Tankersley, Devin. (2023) 不要等到「來不及」：手語習得對神經發展的重要性. Guest workshop for the National Association of the Deaf, Taiwan （中華民國聾人協會）.

Tankersley, Devin. (2023) Language Deprivation: Impacts and Prevention. Guest lecture for SHS431 at UNM.

Tankersley, Devin. (2022) 我的多語教與學之路. Guest workshop for the National Association of the Deaf, Taiwan (中華民國聾人協會).

Languages

- English, native
- Mandarin Chinese, C1 fluency   Band C, TOCFL (2014)
- Taiwan Sign Language, proficient
- American Sign Language, proficient   Level 4, ASLPI (2023)

Awards & Scholarships

Student Research Grant	2024 - 2025
Foundation for Scholarly Exchange (Fulbright)	
Joseph H. Greenberg Endowed Research Fellowship	2020 - 2024
University of New Mexico, USA	
NTHU International Student Scholarship	2016
National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan	
Taiwan Scholarship	2014-2016
Taiwan Ministry of Education	