

Devin Alexander Tankersley



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Cell: +13032699644
devin.tankersley@gmail.com
Albuquerque, NM, USA

- Résumé** I'm a PhD candidate at the University of New Mexico Linguistics Department. My academic interests include impacts of phonology on various components of a language, variation in language and ideologies about language, and language documentation and education. My dissertation is focused on lexical variation in Taiwan Sign Language and attitudes about individual and dialectal differences among deaf TSL signers.
- 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 Positions** **University of New Mexico:** Spring 2024
Teaching Assistant, Department of Linguistics
Taught LING 2110 "Introduction to the Study of Language and Linguistics".
University of New Mexico: 2022 - 2024
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
Taught classes on primary school English education, listening and note-taking skills, presentation writing and delivery, intermediate and advanced conversation.
- Service & Professional Development** **President** University of New Mexico
High Desert Linguistics Society 8/2021 - 8/2023
Served a two-year position in the Linguistics Department graduate student association. Coordinated the planning and execution of the HDLS 15 conference, as well as many other events.
- Journal Articles** Tankersley, Devin, Morford, Jill P. (accepted). Intersubjective Modulation of Exophoric Demonstratives in ASL. *Sign Language & Linguistics*.
Tankersley, Devin. (2025). Handshape Distribution in Taiwan Sign Language: Re-assessing the Role of Ease of Articulation. *Sign Language Studies*, 25(3).
<https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/sls.2025.a963491>
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*, 41(1).
doi.org/10.1177/02676583231202609
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) Lobo Language Acquisition Lab Impact Report.
Tankersley, Devin. (2023) Broadening Bilingualism: the Case for Deaf Dual Language Education. *Soleado*, Summer 2023.

Conference Presentations

- Tankersley, Devin. (accepted) Not just north or south: how TSL signers are blending dialects to form a new “standard”. 2026 LSA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, USA, January 8-11.
- 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. (2025) 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 A. & Geer, Leah C. (2025) 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

- Tankersley, Devin. (2025.03.09) 臺灣手語變異之由來、現況及未來[The past, present, and future of variation in Taiwan Sign Language]°. Workshop for the Tainan Athletic Association of the Deaf, Taiwan (臺南市聽障體育運動協會).
- Morford, Jill P. & Farrell, Rikki & Johnson, Evelyn & Tankersley, Devin. (2024-05-03) Grappling with variation and linguistic bias. [Online workshop](#) produced for the Lobo Language Acquisition Lab, UNM.
- Tankersley, Devin. (2023.07.29) 不要等到「來不及」：手語習得對神經發展的重要性[Don't wait until it's too late: the importance of signed language acquisition on neurodevelopment]. Guest workshop for the National Association of the Deaf, Taiwan (中華民國聾人協會).
- Tankersley, Devin. (2023.04.13) Language Deprivation: Impacts and Prevention. Guest lecture for SHS431 at UNM.
- Tankersley, Devin. (2022.08.06) 我的多語教與學之路[My multilingual educational journey]. 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**

Bilinski Fellowship Bilinski Foundation, University of New Mexico, USA	2025 - 2026
Student Research Grant Foundation for Scholarly Exchange (Fulbright)	2024 - 2025
Joseph H. Greenberg Endowed Research Fellowship University of New Mexico, USA	2020 - 2024
NTHU International Student Scholarship National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan	2016
Taiwan Scholarship Taiwan Ministry of Education	2014-2016