

Robert B Elwell

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Education

Ph.D. Linguistics, University of Texas at Austin, 2010 (Expected)

M.A. Linguistics, University of Texas at Austin, 2007 (Expected)

B.A. Linguistics (Honors), State University of New York at Albany, 2005, *Summa Cum Laude*

Research Interests

Computational Linguistics – Statistical Methods for Morphological Analysis

Morphology – Agglutination

Theoretical Linguistics – Syntax, Morphology, Phonology

Computational Methods in Historical Linguistics

Empiricism in Linguistics

Data-Driven Analysis of Linguistic Formalisms and Theories

Optimality Theory – Opacity, Historical Change, Stochastic Modeling

Information Theory

Entropy and Frequency with Regards to Language Change

Publications

(Forthcoming) “Finite State Methods for Bantu Verb Morphology,” Proceedings of the Texas Linguistic Society X, CLSI Publications.

(Forthcoming) “Using Syllables as Features in Morpheme Tagging in Swahili” with Jason Baldrige. (2007) Proceedings of the Midwest Computational Linguistics Colloquium 4, April 28-29, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.

(Forthcoming) “Motivating Historical Change in Latin through Entropy” (2007) Proceedings of the 18th International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL 2007), August 9-11, University of Quebec, Montreal, Canada.

Working Papers

“Morpheme Gloss Prediction for Swahili without Explicit Segmentation” with Jason Baldrige. (2007) Submitted to Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing 2007.

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Presentations

“The Language Revolution in Guatemala: The Role of Language in Mesoamerican Indigenous Cultural Resistance,” 2nd Annual Undergraduate Honors Conference. State University of New York at Albany, May 12-13, 2005, Albany, NY.

“Finite State Methods for Bantu Verb Morphology,” Texas Linguistics Society X. University of Texas at Austin, November 3-5, 2006, Austin, TX.

“Using Finite State Methods for Verbal Analysis in Ekegusii,” 38th Annual Conference of African Linguistics. University of Florida, March 22-25, 2007, Gainesville, Florida.

“Using Syllables as Features in Morpheme Tagging in Swahili” with Jason Baldrige. (2007) Midwest Computational Linguistics Colloquium 4, April 28-29, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.

“Entropy-Conditioned Syncope of Vowels in Latin and Ibero-Romance” Poster at the University of Texas at Austin Graduate Research Showcase. April 5, 2007, Austin, TX.

“Motivating Historical Change in Latin through Entropy” (2007) 18th International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL 2007), August 9-11, University of Quebec, Montreal, Canada.

Conference Invitations

“Constraining the Final Vowel of the Ekegusii Verb,” Student Conference in Linguistics 12. University of Texas at Arlington, November 2-3, 2006, Arlington, TX.

“An Autosegmental Examination of Floating Tones in Ekegusii,” Mid-Continental Workshop on Phonology. November 4-6, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

“A Descriptive Account of the Ekegusii Verb,” Student Conference in Linguistics 11. University of Texas at Arlington, October 29th-30th, 2005, Arlington, Texas.

Committees and Organizations

Symposium About Language and Society - Austin: Abstract Reader, 2007.

Texas Linguistic Society XI Organizing Committee - Member.

Honors and Awards

2005: Francine Frank Award in Linguistics, University at Albany

2005: Phi Beta Kappa

2004-2005: Presidential Honors Society, University at Albany

2003: National Society of Collegiate Scholars

2002-2005: University at Albany Presidential Scholarship

Teaching Experience

Computational Linguistics Tutor, Fall 2006, University of Texas at Austin

Teaching Assistant, Phonology I, Spring 2005, State University of New York at Albany

Employment

Self Employed (Contracted through Afterwords
Austin, Inc. and Ubiquis, Inc.)

Austin, TX

Transcriptionist

2005–Present

English language transcription of audio files. Usage of syntactic theory in punctuating real-world speech.