

Hee Joong Choi

Joint Ph.D. Student in Hispanic Linguistics and Linguistics

University of Massachusetts Amherst

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Research Interests

Formal pragmatics; non-canonical questions (biased polar and conjectural questions); evidentiality; intonational meaning of nuclear contours; sentence-final particles and speech-act distinctions in East Asian languages; norms of discourse.

Education

Joint Ph.D. in Hispanic Linguistics and Linguistics , <i>University of Massachusetts Amherst</i> Advisor: María Biezma.	2021–present
M.A. in Hispanic Language and Literature , <i>Seoul National University</i> Thesis: <i>A Monoclausal Analysis of Spanish Split Questions</i> . Advisor: Un-Kyung Kim. Committee: Heejeong Ko (chair), Un-Kyung Kim, and Sangwan Shim.	2016–2019
B.A. in Hispanic Language and Literature , <i>Seoul National University</i> Minor: Linguistics. Graduated <i>summa cum laude</i> .	2010–2013
Non-Degree Training	
North American Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (NASSLLI), <i>University of Washington</i>	June 2025
Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, <i>University of Massachusetts Amherst</i>	June–July 2023
Korean Language Instructor Training Program, <i>Seoul National University Language Education Institute</i> 120-hour instructor-training program.	March–June 2021
Winter School on Portuguese, <i>Brazilian Cultural Center, Seoul</i> Intermediate level.	January 2017
Cursos Internacionales, <i>University of Salamanca</i> Advanced level; final evaluation: <i>sobresaliente</i> .	January 2012

Publication

Choi, Hee Joong. “A question of negatively biased commitment: Evidence from Korean evidential long negation polar questions.” <i>Proceedings of CLS 62</i> . Forthcoming.	forthcoming
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Conference Presentations

Poster. <i>Interrogative Flip revisited: Adding evidentiality to biased polar questions</i> . West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 44 (WCCFL 44), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	May 2026
Talk. <i>A question of negatively biased commitment: Evidence from Korean evidential long negation polar questions</i> . Chicago Linguistic Society 62 (CLS 62)	April 2026
Talk. <i>Speaker bias in commitment terms</i> . Theoretical Linguistics at Keio (TaLK) Semantics Conference	March 2026
Poster. <i>Commitment and bias in Korean long negation polar questions (LN-PQs)</i> . Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana	January 2026
Talk. <i>Bias without negation: The role of prosody in Puerto Rican Spanish polar questions</i> . Hispanic Linguistics Symposium, University of Arizona	November 2025
Talk. <i>An experimental study on speaker bias in Puerto Rican Spanish polar questions</i> . 55th Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	September 2025
Talk. <i>Contextual effect on speaker bias polar questions in Puerto Rican Spanish</i> . Polar Question Form[s] Across Languages 2 (POQAL-2), University of Amsterdam	April 2025

Talk. <i>Ambiguous speech acts: Negative neutralization in Korean.</i> 10th UC Davis Symposium on Language Research, University of California, Davis	May 2024
Talk. <i>Negative polar questions and negative neutralization in Korean.</i> Southern New England Workshop in Semantics (SNEWS), Harvard University	February 2024
Talk. <i>A monoclausal analysis of Spanish split questions.</i> 16th Workshop on Syntax, Semantics and Phonology, Complutense University of Madrid	June 2019
Talk. <i>A monoclausal approach to Spanish split questions and its implications for wh-fronting.</i> 29th Colloquium of Generative Grammar, University of Castilla-La Mancha	May 2019
Talk. <i>A monoclausal approach to Spanish split questions.</i> 2019 CORE Conference, Seoul National University [in Korean]	January 2019
Talk. <i>A monoclausal analysis of Spanish split questions.</i> Winter Conference of the Korean Association of Hispanists, Korea University [in Korean]	December 2018
Talk. <i>Investigation of [EPP] by means of wh-movement.</i> Winter Conference of the Korean Association of Hispanists, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies [in Korean]	December 2017
Talk. <i>A modified syntactic explanation for al + infinitive from Rico (2016).</i> Summer Conference of the Korean Association of Hispanists, University of Ulsan [in Korean]	June 2017

Higher-Education Teaching

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Teaching Assistant, LING 394BI: Language and Cognition	Spring 2026
Teaching Assistant, LING 101: People and Their Language	Fall 2025
Teaching Assistant, SPAN 311: Spanish Advanced Grammar	Spring 2025
Teaching Assistant, SPAN 311: Spanish Advanced Grammar	Fall 2024
Teaching Assistant, LING 101: People and Their Language	Spring 2024
Teaching Associate, SPAN 240: Intermediate Spanish II	Spring–Fall 2023
Teaching Associate, SPAN 230: Intermediate Spanish I	Fall 2022
Teaching Associate, SPAN 120: Elementary Spanish II	Spring 2022
Teaching Associate, SPAN 110: Elementary Spanish I	Fall 2021

Seoul National University

Teaching Assistant, Practice in Latin American Poems	Fall 2020
Teaching Assistant, Spanish Grammar II and Elementary Spanish II	Fall 2019
Undergraduate Mentor, CORE Fellowship	Spring 2017

Korea Naval Academy (Republic of Korea Navy)

Lecturer in Spanish as a second language	Fall 2013–Spring 2016
Courses: Spanish I–II; Spanish Conversation I–II; Spanish Composition; Practice in Spanish Translation; Regional Studies on the Hispanic World. Completed as part of military service; discharged as Lieutenant Junior Grade.	

Community Language Education

Homeroom Teacher, grades 3–6, Amherst Korean School	Fall 2022–Spring 2024
Spanish and Korean Instructor, Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools Biliteracy Club	Spring 2022
Instruction toward the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy.	
Spanish Tutor, IB Spanish college-entrance examination preparation	occasional

Professional Service

Linguistics Colloquium Organizer, UMass Amherst	Fall 2025
Semantics Workshop Organizer, UMass Amherst	Fall 2025–Spring 2026
Linguistics Graduate Open House Minion, UMass Amherst	Spring 2025
Syntax-Semantics Reading Group (SSRG) Organizer, Graduate Linguistics Student Association	Fall 2024–Spring 2025
International Studies Council Representative, Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Students Organization	Fall 2022–Spring 2024
Graduate Assistant, UMass Salamanca Summer Program	July 2022
Departmental Program Manager, Department of Hispanic Language and Literature, Seoul National University	Fall 2017–Summer 2019
Coordinator, 8th Seoul National University Spanish Camp	August 2018

Translation and Interpretation

Interpreter, 18th Jeonju International Film Festival	May 2017
Interpretation for guest-visit sessions involving films from Spain, Mexico, and Chile.	
Literary translator into Korean, essays by José Carlos Mariátegui	January 2017
“Oriente y occidente” and “La revolución turca y el Islam,” from <i>La escena contemporánea</i> .	
Spanish Interpreter and Translator, Republic of Korea Navy	2013–2016
Assignments included the first bilateral talks between the Republic of Korea and Peruvian navies.	

Honors

Vice Admiral’s Merit, Superintendent of the Korea Naval Academy	July 2015
Recognized for improving cadets’ foreign-language proficiency through regular and advanced courses, and for interpretation during visits by Latin American naval officers.	

Memberships

Linguistic Society of America	2025–present
Korean Association of Hispanists, associate member	2016–present

Languages

Native	Korean
Professional	English; Spanish (DELE C2)
Working	Portuguese; French (DELF B2)
Elementary	Mandarin Chinese; Japanese (JLPT Level 3); Italian
Reading	Latin