

Becky Everson

Education

- 2024 - **PhD Linguistics**, *University of California, Berkeley*, Berkeley, CA
- 2022 - 2024 **M.A. Language Documentation and Description**, *University of Rochester*, Rochester, NY
Thesis: Shekgalagadi of the Tjhauba: A Description and Analysis of the Phonological, Morphological, and Semantic Properties of Nouns in an Under-Described Bantu Language
- 2012 - 2016 **B.S. Computer Science/B.A. Linguistics**, *University of Rochester*, Rochester, NY

Research Experience

- June 2023 - **Documentation of Shekgalagadi as spoken by the Tjhauba**, *Nxamasere, Botswana*
June 2024 From June to August 2023 I conducted fieldwork on the variety of Shekgalagadi spoken by the Tjhauba in the Okavango Delta in Botswana. The main objectives of this project are to document an understudied language, create the first public corpus of Shekgalagadi speech, preserve traditions by video recording subsistence strategies and cultural events, and analyze nominal tone and agreement for my M.A. thesis. This project is financed by an Endangered Languages Documentation Programme Small Grant (SG0739).
- March 2022 - **Typology of sociolinguistic variation in reference grammars**, *University of Rochester, in the Grammar and Variation Lab*
The goal of this lab is to understand how grammar writers represent sociolinguistic variation and develop a tool-kit for describing variation. Developing a typology for sociolinguistic variation will also help grammars be more useful for sociolinguistic and historical linguistic studies. We've developed a system for tracking instances of variation in three different categories: chapter (such as syntax, phonology), type of linguistic variable (such as inflectional affix, syntactic), and grammar author's explanation (such as dialectal, register). We find instances by searching for 19 lemmatized keywords and their variants (such as "var*" to catch "variety" and "variable", "dialect", "contact").
- March 2017 - **An Online Platform for Community-Based Language Description and Documentation**, *Independent, with Scott Grimm and Wolf Honore*
The idea for an online community-based language documentation portal began when Professor Scott Grimm and I were in Hawaii for ICLDC 5 (see Presentations, "From Toolbox Database to LaTeX Dictionary"). We noticed a lack of software designed to help communities drive their own language documentation projects. The initial project details included the following:
- A phone application for community members to use to perform small documentation tasks, such as translating a word and recording a short phrase using it
 - An "admin portal" designed to assign tasks and review responses
 - A dynamically populated website with the admin-approved data, displayed as an interactive dictionary with audio recordings
- January 2016 - **From Toolbox Database to LaTeX Dictionary**, *University of Rochester, with Scott Grimm*
May 2016 Toolbox's options for exporting data does not include robust formatting tools. Scott Grimm needed a way to make his extensive Toolbox data on the Dagaare language into a formatted, printable dictionary. I wrote him a script that would take Toolbox raw text as input and convert it to LaTeX. He could then run the script to get a PDF with his desired formatting as the output. This dictionary and grammatical sketch of Dagaare has since been published with the formatted Toolbox data.

Archive Collections

- 2023 **Shekgalagadi of the Tjhauba: A documentation of culture and subsistence in the Okavango**, Endangered Languages Archive. Handle: <http://hdl.handle.net/2196/9022770b-448b-44c2-8179-7a4925f110b7>

Conference Proceedings

- 2019 **An Online Platform for Community-Based Language Description and Documentation**, Rebecca Everson, Wolf Honore, and Scott Grimm, In *Proceedings of the 3rd Workshop on the Use of Computational Methods in the Study of Endangered Languages, Association for Computational Linguistics*.

Working Papers

- 2024 **Object Markers are Reflexes of Movement in Shekgalagadi**, Becky Everson, In *Working Papers in the Language Sciences at the University of Rochester*, Volume 10, 2024.

Presentations

- 2022 **Towards a typology of sociolinguistic variation**, 14th Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology, Nadine Grimm, Maya Abtahian, Becky Everson, Constanza Aceves Rodriguez, Jamie Davis and Scott Kirshner, Oral presentation. Co-presented with Scott Kirshner.
- 2019 **An Online Platform for Community-Based Language Description and Documentation**, 6th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC), March 2019, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, with Wolf Honore and Scott Grimm. Technology Showcase Presentation.
- 2017 **From Toolbox Database to LaTeX Dictionary**, 5th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC), March 2017, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, with Scott Grimm. Poster.

Invited Talks

- (to appear) **Nominal Tone in Shekgalagadi of the Tjhauba**, Kalahari Basin Area Network, Invited to present my fieldwork and MA research on Shekgalagadi in the Okavango.
- 2018 **Writing Dynamic Websites with FactSet Engineers**, Dandyhacks: University of Rochester's Annual Student Hackathon, Invited as part of FactSet's sponsorship of the event. Acted as the company representative during the hackathon. Presented with Charlie Kelman.
- 2017 **Python Web Services with CherryPy**, Dandyhacks: University of Rochester's Annual Student Hackathon, Invited as part of FactSet's sponsorship of the event. Acted as the company representative during the hackathon.

Awards and Grants

- March 2024 **Berkeley Fellowship for Graduate Study**, Berkeley Graduate Division
- April 2023 **Small Grant**, Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, Awarded €8607 for the project "Adapting to a changing landscape: A documentation of Tjhauba cultural practices and subsistence strategies"
- April 2023 **IPA Award**, Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, Awarded €2350 to help fund the phonetic research component of the ELDP-funded project "Adapting to a changing landscape: A documentation of Tjhauba cultural practices and subsistence strategies"
- May 2016 **Teaching Assistant Award**, University of Rochester Computer Science Department, Awarded by professors during undergraduate graduation ceremony.

Spring 2012 **Research and Innovation Grant**, *University of Rochester*, Awarded \$3000 by University of Rochester upon admission to undergraduate program to support research goals.

Teaching

August 2023 - **Teaching Assistant: Preserving diversity in language and culture (LING270)** , *University of Rochester Linguistics Department*, Attended all classes, provided examples from my fieldwork experiences to complement readings, led discussions for some readings, and taught lessons on project planning, ELAN, and FLEx.
December 2023

Service

January 2024 - **Editor: Working Papers the in Language Sciences at the University of Rochester**, *University of Rochester Linguistics Department*, Graduate student editor of WPLS:UR. Read submissions, communicated with reviewers, provided anonymous reviewer feedback to authors.
May 2024

Work

July 2016 - **Senior Software Engineer**, *FactSet Research Systems*, Norwalk, CT
January 2021 Worked as part of a team that was responsible for processing news feed data from hundreds of vendors. Projects included:

- Migrating a .NET data quality assurance app written in C# to an AngularJS web app with backend services written in Python (CherryPy)
- Increasing the scope of the app to include additional client workflows
- Providing middleware in Python (Flask) as part of a collaboration with machine learning and frontend developers to provide investment bankers with stronger company research tools. Acting as the lead backend engineer and collaborating with engineers and product managers in India.
- Designing and managing an intern project to improve non-technical employee experience when working with internal news applications

May 2017 - **Engineering Internship Coordinator**, *FactSet Research Systems*, Norwalk, CT
January 2021 Collaborated with HR and engineers in other offices to provide a fun summer experience for rising college seniors. Position was volunteer, not part of normal engineering responsibilities. Duties included:

- Recruiting candidates at university career fairs
- Performing technical phone screens and onsite demonstrations of the FactSet product for candidates (50-60 interviews per year with the goal of hiring 10 Norwalk interns)
- Sending company-wide emails to get intern project proposals, then working with senior leadership to select the projects that give the most business value
- Organizing internship orientation by scheduling presenters from different areas of the company
- Holding catch-up meetings with the intern managers to get status updates and catch issues early

August 2015 - **Lead Teaching Assistant**, *University of Rochester*, Rochester, NY
May 2016 Lead undergraduate teaching assistant (TA) for both introductory Computer Science classes, CSC 171 and 172. Duties included:

- Managing all other undergraduate TAs
- Teaching one section of the CSC 171 lab
- Working with CSC 171 and 172 professors to improve labs and homework questions

Certifications

December 2021 - **NASM-CPT**, *National Academy for Sports Medicine*, Certified Personal Trainer status is active for 2 years. Must be re-certified with qualifying continuing education credits every 2 years.
December 2023

Volunteering

- October 2021 **Robotics Team Mentor**, *Rochester Adams High School*, Rochester, MI
- May 2022 Mentor high school students in an after school robotics club. Students build a robot in the fall to compete in the Oakland County Competitive Robotics Association (OCCRA) competition, then build a robot in the spring to compete in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) competition. Mentor duties include:
- Working with the business management team, which consists of public relations, the business plan, and Chairman's Award subteams
 - Attending competitions as a chaperone and to help answer student questions in between matches
 - Organizing and participating in community outreach events
 - Providing networking opportunities for students by connecting them with young professionals to learn more about different career paths
- Spring 2018 – **Basic Python Tutorial**, *Norwalk Public Library*, Norwalk, CT
- Winter 2019 Worked with 3 coworkers to develop a short and simple Python coding curriculum, then gave weekly lessons at the public library for free. Unaffiliated with FactSet.

Relevant Skills

- Languages English (native), Spanish (intermediate), Shekgalagadi (fieldwork), Setswana (fieldwork)
- Technology Python, Javascript, SQL, HTML, CSS, Microsoft Office, Linux, MacOS, Windows, L^AT_EX
- Linguistic Software Praat, Elan, FLE_x, SayMore, Lameta, Toolbox
- Archiving ELAR, Preservica
- Soft Skills Linguistic field research management and planning, grant-writing, program development and management, stakeholder communication