

Tammer Castro

Greater Boston Area

Senior Analytical Linguist / Language Engineer

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Profile

Goal-driven, results-oriented language engineer with extensive academic background in theoretical linguistics and hands-on experience with data collection and statistical analysis. I am motivated and enthusiastic by new challenges and tasks and take excellent approach to achieve success in all projects.

Relevant Work Experience

Amazon Cambridge, MA (November 2018-Present) *Alexa Entertainment Language Engineer*

As a Language Engineer on the Alexa Entertainment team, I help improve the customer experience by designing the NLU (natural language understanding) components of new Alexa experiences and features, focusing on developing finite-state transducers (FSTs) and annotation specifications. I ensure that the annotated data is measured and analyzed for accuracy, and collaborate with research scientist and data specialists in developing coherent and comprehensive meaning representation frameworks.

Apple (via Lionbridge Technologies) Cupertino, CA (April 2017-October 2018) *Senior Analytical Linguist*

I provided linguistic expertise for the Siri Text-to-Speech team on several languages, such as Norwegian, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese and different varieties of English. In addition, I was responsible for onboarding new linguists and overseeing their progress to make sure that they are able to deliver results as quickly as possible. I built HTML and Python tools to speed up the linguists' workflow. I also coordinated bi-weekly crowdsourcing testing for tracking progress in various locales.

UiT The Arctic University of Norway Tromsø, Norway (September 2012-December 2016) *PhD Researcher*

I worked on a main research project investigating the distribution of empty categories in the acquisition of two closely related varieties of Portuguese (Brazilian and European Portuguese). I made use of web-based tools to gather comprehension and production linguistic data, in addition to in-country fieldwork. I have also developed side projects as collaborations with other professors in the department, on the phonology of Brazilian Portuguese, and on language contact along the Portugal-Spain border.

Florida International University Miami, FL (September 2010-July 2012) *Writing & Rhetoric Adjunct Instructor*

I taught writing skills to groups of first-year college students, focusing on a variety of genres such as classical argumentation, informative reports and descriptive narrative, emphasizing critical thinking skills and complexity of ideas.

Education

UiT The Arctic University of Norway Tromsø, Norway (2016) *Ph.D. in Linguistics / Second Language Acquisition*
Dissertation: "Heritage and adult L2 acquisition of empty categories in a bidialectal-bilingual context"

Florida International University Miami, FL (2011) *M.A. in Linguistics*

Thesis: "Null subject behavior in the attrition of Brazilian Portuguese"

State University of Ceara Fortaleza, Brazil (2004) *B.A. in English / Portuguese Language and Literature*

Skills

- Proficient in Python, comfortable using command line, HTML and CSS;
- Fluent in Portuguese, English, Norwegian, Spanish, solid understanding of Scandinavian and Romance languages in general;
- Version control systems: Git (experienced with both Github and Gitlab);
- Excellent communication and presentation skills;
- Creating and keeping deadlines, setting and meeting goals.

Selected Publications

- **Castro, T.**, Rothman, J. & Westergaard, M. (2017) On the directionality of cross-linguistic effects in bidialectal bilingualism. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 8.
- **Castro, T.**, Rothman, J. & Westergaard, M. (2016) Comparing Anaphora Resolution in Early and Late Brazilian Portuguese-European Portuguese Bidialectal Bilinguals. In *The Acquisition and Processing of Spanish and Portuguese Morphosyntax: Theoretical and experimental issues*. [RESLA 29:2] pp. 429–461.
- González Alonso, J., Rothman, J., Berndt, D., **Castro, T.**, & Westergaard, M. (2016). Broad scope and narrow focus: On the contemporary linguistic and psycholinguistic study of L3 acquisition. *International Journal of Bilingualism*.
- **Castro, T.** (2012) "Null Subject Behavior in the Attrition of Brazilian Portuguese," *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics*: Vol. 18: Iss. 1, Article 5.

Professional References

- **provided upon request**