



Deniz Ekin Yavas

Computational Linguist

Work experience

Doctoral Researcher

Feb 2021 - present

Heinrich Heine University, Germany

- I am working as a researcher in the DFG-funded project “Coercion and Copredication as Flexible Frame Composition”. PIs: Laura Kallmeyer, and Rainer Osswald.
- I work with Large Language Models and explore and exploit their ability to deal with meaning flexibility in language.
- I experimented with different methods using Large Language Models: data augmentation, zero-shot cross-lingual transfer, fine-tuning, feature extraction, adversarial forgetting, interpretability, and explainability.

Visiting Researcher

Sep 2023 - Dec 2023

Paris Diderot University, France

- The research stay was funded by Labex EFL.
- Supervisors: Timothée Bernard, and Benoit Crabbé
- I developed and executed a project to improve word sense induction performance by erasing information from the representations of Large Language Models using adversarial forgetting.

Linguist

Oct 2020 - Feb 2021

Appen, Remote

- I was responsible for creating language tests for Turkish for the employment process of the annotator of the Turkish NLP tasks.

Education

PhD. in Computational Linguistics.

Feb 2021 - July 2020

Heinrich Heine University, Germany

Thesis Title: *Data-Driven Investigation of Inherent Polysemy using Contextualized Language Models*

MA. in General Linguistics.

Sep 2017 - July 2020

Dokuz Eylul University, Turkey

Thesis Title: *Contextualized Teaching of Polysemous Verbs in Turkish as a Foreign Language*

BA. in General Linguistics.

Sep 2013 - June 2017

Istanbul University, Turkey

Graduated with First-Class Honors

✉ deniz.eyavas@gmail.com

📍 Düsseldorf, Germany

🌐 [Personal Website](#)

🌐 [LinkedIn](#)

🌐 [GitHub](#)

Languages:

English	Fluent
Turkish	Native
German	Intermediate

Programming:

Python (Pytorch, Scikit-learn, Transformers)

Interests:

Large Language Models, Interpretability & Explainability, Linguistic Creativity

Publications & Talks

Yavas, D. E. Assessing the Significance of Encoded Information in Contextualized Representations to Word Sense Disambiguation. *UnImplicit Workshop EACL 2024*. [🔗](#)

Yavas, D. E., Ricchiardi M., Ježek E., Kallmeyer L., Osswald R. & Chen, L. Identifying Semantic Argument Types in Predication and Copredication Contexts: A Zero-Shot Cross-Lingual Approach. *RANLP 2023*. [🔗](#)

Yavas, D. E., Ricchiardi M., Ježek E., Kallmeyer L. & Osswald R. Automatic Detection of Copredication using Contextualized Word Embeddings. *BriGap Workshop ESLLI 2022*. [🔗](#)

Yavas, D. E. & Uzdu Yıldız, F. Contextualized Teaching of Different Senses of “al-” in Turkish as a Foreign Language. *Journal of Language Education and Research 2021*. [🔗](#)

Grants & Funding

Training Fund

May 2023

Equal Opportunities Center, Heinrich Heine University

Training Fund for the AI Summer School ESSAI

Amount: 500 €

Incoming Mobility Grant

Dec 2022

Labex EFL

Mobility grant for a 3-months research stay at a university in France

Amount: 3,500 € + Transport Costs

Organizational Experience

PhD Event at Konvens 2023

Sept 2023

Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt, Germany

PhD Event at National Conference on NLP [🔗](#)

RRG 2023

August 2023

Heinrich Heine University, Germany

International Conference on Role and Reference Grammar [🔗](#)

TaCOS 2023

June 2023

Heinrich Heine University, Germany

National Student Conference of Computational Linguistics [🔗](#)

Teaching

Language Model Interpretability. Summer Semester 2024. *Heinrich Heine University, Germany*.

Volunteering

Writer

May 2023 - present

CogIST

CogIST [🔗](#) is a community formed by a group of people who love cognitive science in Turkey. It aims to gather cognitive science lovers together by organizing events, increase the popularity of the field in Turkey, and educate people more on the topic.

My main responsibility is to write blog posts on the intersection between AI and cognitive science. My latest blog post series in Turkish focuses on the cognitive plausibility and the interpretability of the large language models [🔗](#).

Certifications

ESSAI (European Summer School on Artificial Intelligence)

24 - 28 July 2023

Ljubljana University, Slovenia

ESSLLI (European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information)

8 - 19 Aug 2022

National University of Ireland, Ireland

ESSLLI (European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information)

26 July - 13 Aug 2021

Online