



Suzan Dilara Scheffer, Ph.D.

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EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

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|----------------|---|
| 2017 – 2022 | PhD in Neurolinguistics and Cognitive Science at IDEALAB <i>Macquarie University (Australia), University of Groningen (The Netherlands)</i> |
| Supervisors: | Prof. Lyndsey Nickels (Macquarie University), Prof. Roel Jonkers (Promoter, University of Groningen) |
| Thesis Title: | An investigation of heritage language speakers of Turkish: evidentiality processing and the effects of language experience (download) |
| Methodologies: | EEG (electroencephalogram), Auditory Processing, Self-paced reading |
| 2013 – 2017 | Master of Science in Speech and Language Therapy <i>Anadolu University, Eskisehir (Turkey)</i> |
| Supervisors: | Asst. Prof. Dr. Aylin Müge Tunçer (advisor), Professor İlknur Mavis |
| Thesis Title: | The Assessment of Cognitive Skills of Individuals with and without Aphasia Using Adaptation of Cognitive Screening Part of The Comprehensive Aphasia Test |
| 2007 – 2012 | Bachelor's Degree in English Language Teaching <i>Anadolu University, Eskisehir (Turkey)</i> |
| 2010 – 2011 | Exchange Studies (Erasmus) in English Language Teaching <i>Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan (Poland)</i> |

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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|----------------|---|
| 2017 - Present | The Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists |
| 2020 - Present | Stichting Meertalige Logopedie Nederland |
| 2020 - Present | Aphasia Access |
| 2024 - Present | British Aphasia Society |
| 2025 - Present | Academy of Aphasia |
| 2020 - 2022 | The Centre for Research Excellence in Aphasia Rehabilitation and Recovery - La Trobe University |

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

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|---|---|
| 2023 - Present | Freelancer Speech and Language Consultant <i>Mavi Consultancy</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">assessment and therapy for children and adults with speech and language disorders or challenges | |
| 2023 - Present | Lecturer at the Artificial Intelligence and Computational Cognitive Science Department <i>Science and Engineering Faculty - University of Groningen (The Netherlands)</i> |

- teaching BA and MSc courses, e.g., general linguistics for AI, modeling human language, language and speech technology, language technology practical, ethics in AI (guest lecturers)
- supervising for BA and MSc theses
- taking part in the curriculum committee activities

2020 – 2024 **Online Speech and Language Therapist & Research and Development Manager**
Europe Online Therapy Services (The Netherlands)

- providing speech and language therapy services through the online software developed by Canada
- target group: developmental language disorders, speech sound disorders, aphasia, dysarthria, learning difficulties-dyslexia, multilingual children, children in the autism spectrum
- team leader of a 30-member speech therapy team, providing supervision
- conducting research on online speech therapy and digital health
- leading team of designers and content managers
- leading projects in the fields of AI in relation to language treatment

2022 – 2023 **Lecturer at Speech and Language Therapy Department**
Medipol University (Turkey)

- teaching linguistics and linguistic domains to bachelor students in English and Turkish

2017 – 2023 **Ph.D. researcher in Neurolinguistics at IDEALAB**
Macquarie University (Australia), University of Groningen (The Netherlands)

- specialized in Evidentiality (specification of information source) in Turkish, bilingualism, heritage language, and their speakers with and without aphasia
- conducted ERP experiments using EEG, pre-processed and analyzed EEG data, used online and behavioral techniques

2019 – 2021 **Turkish Teacher**
Sydney Language Solutions, Sydney (Australia)

2016 – 2017 **Research Intern – Erasmus Program**
Research Group in Neurolinguistics, University of Groningen, Groningen (Netherlands)

04/2016 – 09/2016 **Speech and Language Therapist**
Bilgiç Special Education Centre, Bursa (Turkey)

10/2015 – 01/2016 **Speech and Language Therapist**
Özem Special Education Centre, Ankara (Turkey)

06/2013 – 11/2013 **English Teacher**
Testing Language Schools, Eskisehir (Turkey)

09/2012 – 05/2013 **English Teacher**
Akvaryum Childcare Center, Ankara (Turkey)

03/2012 – 07/2012 **English Teacher**
Wall Street Institute, Eskisehir (Turkey)

EXTERNAL ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025 – present **Deputy Lead**
Collaborations of Aphasia Trialists (CATs) –Global Engagement Group

2025 – present **Team Leader**
Collaborations of Aphasia Trialists (CATs) – Multilingual Aphasia Project Best Practice Guidelines Group

2025 – present **Reviewer**
The Journal of Language, Speech, and Swallowing Research

2020 – 2021 **Vice President**
Association for Interdisciplinary Meta-Research and Open Science (AIMOS)

- conducting activities and leading projects in order to advance the interdisciplinary field of meta-research by bringing together and supporting researchers in that field

03/2020 – 06/2021 Applied Therapy Project Supervisor
Anadolu University (Turkey), Speech and Language Department

2019 – 2020 Supervision
• Supervised and assisted Master’s students of Clinical Linguistics in EEG data collection

2016 – 2017 Supervision
• Supervised Bachelor students of the Speech and Language Therapy Department in clinics

CERTIFICATES (selected)

- University Teaching Qualification (BKO), 2023, University of Groningen
- Cognitive Modelling Spring School 2024, University of Groningen, Artificial Intelligence Department
- Cornerstone of Artificial Intelligence: Large Language Models, 2025, CogIst Group
- Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence: Intentionality, Emotions and Consciousness, 2025, CogIst Group
- Fundamentals of Language Modelling, 2025, CogIst Group
- BCI & Neurotechnology Spring School, 2024
- BCI & Neurotech Masterclass Netherlands, 2023
- DIR Floortime, 2021,
- Respect.Now.Always, 2019, Macquarie University

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Turkish, native
- English, C1
- Dutch, B2

SOFTWARE SKILLS

- Programming languages: R and MATLAB, beginner-level Python
- LaTeX
- EEG acquisition software (Asa-Lab, Brainvision analyser, E-prime)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human language processing, aphasia, multilingualism, language technology, evidentiality, experimental approaches to language processing, ERPs (Event Related Potentials), bilingualism, heritage language speaker, cognition, language disorders, speech disorders, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, application of AI in healthcare, use of technology in healthcare, speech synthesis, natural language processing, large language models, ethics in AI,

BOOK CHAPTER

Tokaç-Scheffer, S. D. (2024). Afazi terapisi temel ve genel ilkeleri. In S. Topbaş, İ. Maviş, S. S. Balo and Eda İyigün Uzunöz (Eds.), *Kuramdan uygulamaya klinik dil ve konuşma terapisi* (1st ed., pp. 779-789). Ankara Nobel Tıp Kitabevleri.

Mavis, I., Tunçer, A. M., Selvi-Balo, S., Özdemir, Ş., **Tokaç-Scheffer, S. D.**, Yaşar-Gündüz, E., Günhan-Şenol, N. E. (2024). *CAT-TR. Comprehension Aphasia Test Turkish adaptation*. Detay Yayıncılık, Eskişehir.

PUBLICATIONS

Scheffer, S. D. (in prep.). Cross-Linguistic Assessment of Aphasia of a Turkish Heritage Speaker: A Case Study from Australia

Scheffer, S. D. (in prep.). Processing of evidentiality in Turkish: An ERP study

Scheffer, S. D. (in prep.). Çok Dilli Afazililerle Çalışan Dil ve Konuşma Terapistlerine Yönelik Uygulamalar ve Güncel Zorluklar: Uluslararası Bir Anket Çalışması (Eng: Practices and Current Challenges for Speech-Language Therapists Working with Multilingual People with Aphasia: An International Survey Study).

Tokaç-Scheffer, S. D., Nickels, L., & Arslan, S. (2024). One suitcase, two grammars: what can we conclude about Australian Turkish heritage speakers' divergent processing of evidentiality? *Linguistics Vanguard*. <https://doi.org/10.1515/lingvan-2023-0101>

Tokaç-Scheffer, S. D., Arslan, S & Nickels, L. (2023). Insights into the time course of evidentiality processing in Turkish heritage speakers using a self-paced reading task. *Front. Commun.* 8:1070510. doi:10.3389/fcomm.2023.1070510

Silvia Martinez-Ferreiro, Marie Pourquié, Seçkin Arslan, **Suzan Dilara Tokaç-Scheffer**, Ritienne Grima et al. (2023). Perspectivas globales sobre formación y prácticas logopédicas con personas multilingües con afasia. XXXIII Congreso Internacional de la Asociación Española de Logopedia, Foniatría y Audiología e Iberoamericana de Fonoaudiología, Sep 2023, Santander, Spain

Mavis, I., Tunçer, A. M., Selvi-Balo, S., **Tokac, S. D.,** Özdemir, Ş. (2021). The adaptation process of the Comprehension Aphasia Test into CAT-Turkish: psycholinguistic and clinical considerations, *Aphasiology*, 1-20.

Tokac, S. D., Tunçer, A. M., & Mavis, I. (2019). A study of associations between Cognition and Language: What can Cognitive Screening Section of the Comprehensive Aphasia Test (CAT) provide? *Front. Hum. Neurosci. Conference Abstract: Academy of Aphasia 57th Annual Meeting*. doi: 10.3389/conf.fnhum.2019.01.0002

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Scheffer, S.D. (2025, June). Pre- and Post-Treatment Assessment of a Multilingual Post-Stroke Patient: A Case Study of Agrammatism. Oral presentation in the Multilingual Aphasia Session at the ISB 15th International Symposium on Bilingualism, Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain.

Munarriz- Ibarrola, A., Pourquié, M., Arslan, S., Fyndanis, V., Grima, R., Kambanaros, M., Martínez-Ferreiro, S., Mohamed, T., Norvik, M., Peñaloza, C., Python, G., Rickard-Liow, S. J., Soroli, E., Sze, W.P., **Scheffer, S. D.** & The Multilingual Aphasia Practice (MAP) Group (Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists Working Group 2) (2025, June). Common practices and current challenges for speech and Language Therapists working with multilingual people with aphasia: Results from an online international survey. Oral presentation in the Multilingual Aphasia Symposium Session at the ISB 15th International Symposium on Bilingualism, Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain.

Tokac-Scheffer, S.D. (2024, September). Multilingual post-stroke patient: A case study of agrammatism. Oral presentation at British Aphasiology Society International Conference, De Montfort University, Leicester, United Kingdom.

Tokac-Scheffer, S.D., Arslan, S., Nickels, L. (2024, September). Insights into the time course of evidentiality processing in Turkish heritage speakers using a self-paced reading task. Poster presented at the 30th AMLaP International Conference on Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Pourquié, M., Arslan, S., **Dilara Tokaç-Scheffer S.,** Grima, R., Fyndanis, V., Kambanaros, M., Martínez-Ferreiro, S., Munarriz-Ibarrola, A., Norvik, M., Peñaloza, C., Python, G., Soroli, E., Sze, W. P., Taiebine, M. & the Multilingual Aphasia Practice (MAP) Group (CATs WG2) (2023, August). Global perspectives on speech and language therapy training and practices for multilingual people with aphasia. Poster presented at the 29th AmLaP International Conference on Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing, San Sebastian, Spain.

Tokac-Scheffer, S.D. (2023, June). Exploring Aphasia: Impacts and Interventions for Stroke Survivors. 7th International Oral presentation at Acharaka Congress on Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Sciences, Izmir, Turkey.

Tokac, S.D., Arslan, S., Nickels, L., (2021, June). Auditory Processing Differences of Bilingual Speakers: Heritage Language vs Emigrant Speakers. Poster presented at Evidentiality and modality: At the crossroads of grammar and lexicon, Montpellier, France.

Özdemir Ş., Selvi Balo S., **Tokaç S. D.,** Maviş I. (2021, May). What Really Matters: Challenges and Benefits of Adapting Normative Aphasia Tests. Oral presentation. 14th Panhellenic-1st International Congress "Building Bridges" On Speech and Language Therapy, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Tokac, S. D., Popov, S., Arslan, S., & Bastiaanse, Y. (2019, November). Processing of Turkish evidential markers: Evidence from ERP studies. Oral presentation. New Zealand Linguistic Society Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Tokac, S. D., Tunçer, A. M., & Mavis, I. (2019, October). A study of associations between Cognition and Language: What can the Cognitive Screening Section of the Comprehensive Aphasia Test (CAT) provide? Poster presented at Academy of Aphasia 57th Annual Meeting, Macau.

Tokac, S. D., Popov, S., Arslan, S., & Bastiaanse, Y. (2018, September). Processing of evidentiality in Turkish: An ERP study. Poster presented at Science of Aphasia, Venice-Lido, Italy.

Tokac, S. D., Tunçer, A. M., & Mavis, I. (2018, January). The Cognitive Screen Data of Individuals with &without Aphasia. Poster presented at European Workshop on Cognitive Neuropsychology, Bressanone, Brixen, Italy.

Tokac, S. D., Tunçer, A. M., & Mavis, I. (2017, February). Turkish Adaptation of CAT: The Cognitive Screen Data of Individuals with & without Aphasia. Poster presented at The Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists (CATs) Conference, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

INVITED TALKS (selected)

- Aphasia Therapy Approaches. *Speech and Language Therapy Academy*, November 2024.
- Aphasia Therapy and a Presentation of a Case Study. *Speech and Language Therapy Academy*, May 2024.
- At the Crossroads of Language and Education. *Bakırçay University (Turkey), Speech and Language Department*, November 2023.
- How to Speech and Language Therapy in The Netherlands. *Anadolu University (Turkey), Speech and Language Department*, January 2023
- Speech and Language Therapy Approaches in The Netherlands. *Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (Turkey), Speech and Language Department*, April 2022
- Panel on Speech and Language Therapy During Pandemics. *European Day of Speech and Language Therapists Event* organized by *Medipol University (Turkey), Speech and Language Department*, March 2022.
- Dyslexia and Classroom Accommodations. *University of Stirling (Scotland), Education Department*, March 2021.
- Teletherapy Techniques for Speech and Language Therapists. *Anadolu University (Turkey), Speech and Language Department*, March 2021.
- Academia and Speech and Language Therapy. *Istanbul Kent University (Turkey), Speech and Language Department*, November 2020.
- A Heritage Speaker with Aphasia: Application of CAT-TR in a bilingual context. *Collaborative Aphasia Trialists (CATs) - Junior and Early-Stage Aphasia Researchers Meeting*, June 2020.
- Processing of evidentiality and time reference in Turkish: A new approach to ERP data analyses. *IDEALAB Winter School, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia*, February 2020.
- Easy way to analyze neurophysiological data: How to pre-process ERP data with Brainvision Analyzer. *Research Bazaar Sydney, Australia*, September 2019.
- Processing of evidentiality in Turkish. *Cognitive Science Department, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia*, June 2019.
- Processing of evidentiality in Turkish: Evidence from ERP studies. *IDEALAB Winter School, University of Trento, Rovereto, Italy*, January 2019.
- Processing of evidentiality in Turkish: An ERP study. *IDEALAB Summer School, University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany*. September 2018.
- Processing of evidentiality in Turkish. *IDEALAB Winter School, University of Trento, Rovereto, Italy*, January 2018.
- Homonymic finite and non-finite verb characteristics of Turkish Agrammatic speakers. *IDEALAB Summer School, University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany*, September 2017

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

University of Groningen

- General Linguistics (BA Artificial Intelligence) (2023-2025)
- Speech and Language Technology (BA Artificial Intelligence) (2024)
- Language Modelling (MSc Computational and Cognitive Science) (2024)
- Psycholinguistics and Cognition (MSc Computational and Cognitive Science) (2024-2025)
- Modelling of Human Language (MSc Computational and Cognitive Science) (2024-2025)

- Natural Language Processing (BA Artificial Intelligence) (2024-2025) – Guest Lectures
- Language Technology Practical (2023-2025) – Guest Lectures
- Human Language Learning (2025) – Guest Lecturer

Medipol University

- Clinical Linguistics (BSc Speech and Language Therapy) (2022-2023)

SUPERVISION

- WOW Bilingual Robot Game: Enhancing English Learning in Dutch Children
- Singing to Remember: The Impact of AI-Generated Music on L2 Retention and Recall on Children
- Modeling Aphasia Type in Greek-Speaking Patients Utilizing Deep Neural Networks
- Utilizing Automatic Speech Recognition for the Detection of Speech Errors to Classify Aphasia Types
- Architecture and Testing of Memory Augmented Conversational Instructional Agents for Language Learning
- Multilingual Language Processing of Speakers of Hindi and Sindhi
- Agrammatic Aphasia through the Lens of Turkish: Evaluation of Linguistic Models and an Integrative Account of Morphosyntactic, Discourse-Linking, and Epistemic Deficits
- Bilingual Processing of Evidentiality in Bulgarian
- The Role of Language Dominance in Cross-Linguistic Influence: The Case of Suret
- The Predictive Power of Syntactic and Semantic Markers of Speech in Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorder and Wernicke's Aphasia
- Improving Transfer Learning for NER for Indian Languages

VOLUNTARY INITIATIVES

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| Aphasia Teatime | This nonprofit initiative is a personal project where I lead a support group for people with communication disorders. The aim of the group is to bring together individuals who speak the same language but are isolated due to their language barrier. As a speech and language therapist, I also share my knowledge with them during these gatherings. |
| Aphasia Snapshots | These are a series of short, insightful videos I share on my professional social media account, featuring conversations with experts and individuals living with aphasia. One voice, one story, one snapshot at a time. |

HOBBIES

Besides being a dedicated speech and language therapist, researcher, and teacher. I also enjoy other wonders in life, such as dancing, reading, watching arthouse movies, reading about the film industry, walking in nature, hiking, traveling, arts & crafts, and most importantly, practicing yoga and mindfulness on a daily basis.