

Almas Ashraf

Assistant Professor (English)

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Education

- 2016** **MS (Applied Linguistic)**
NED University of Engineering and Technology
CGP 3.69 (Valedictorian)
Thesis: *Exploring Language Assessment Practices in English for Academic Purposes Courses at Undergraduate Level in Karachi*
- 2013** **MA (English Linguistics)**
Jinnah University for Women
1st Position
- 2010** **MA (English Literature)**
Jinnah University for Women
1st Position
- 2007** **Bachelors of Arts**
University of Karachi
A Grade (72.8%)
- 2005** **Intermediate (Arts & Humanities)**
Board of Higher Secondary Education
A Grade (74.2%)
- 2003** **Matriculation (Arts & Humanities)**
Board of Secondary Education
A Grade (79%)

Summer Schools / Courses / Diploma

- 4-7 July 2021** **Corpus Linguistics Summer School (Online)**
Department of English Language and Linguistics
University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
Sessions included: *Introduction to Corpus Linguistics, General Corpus Analysis Methods, Introduction to Sketch Engine, Introduction to Base R, Web Scraping with R, Multidimensional Analysis, Analyzing Grammar Complexity using Advanced Search in AntConc (POS tagged corpora and regular expressions)*

- 11-23 March 2019** **International Spring School in Advanced Language Engineering (ISSALE 2019)**
National Languages Processing Centre
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Courses: *Grammar Engineering for South Asian Languages, Basic Grammar and Computation Methods, Computational Corpus Linguistics*
- 24-27 April 2019** **Summer School on Corpus Linguistics**
Center of Research in Corpus
Air University, Islamabad, Pakistan
- 2018** **MS Course on ‘Natural Language Processing’**
CGP: 3.0
Department of Computer Science
Mohammad Ali Jinnah University
Karachi, Pakistan
- 2018** **Postgraduate Diploma in Computer and Information Science**
1st Position
Department of Computer Science
University of Karachi
Karachi, Pakistan
- 2016** **Three-day Training Workshop on Syntactic Annotation and Urdu Treebank**
Humanities Department
NED University of Engineering and Technology

Work Experience

- 2018 to date** **Assistant Professor (English)**
Department of Humanities
NED University of Engineering and Technology
- **Undergraduate Courses Taught:** *Functional English, Business Communication & Ethics, Professional Ethics, Foundations of Education, Language in Education, History of English Literature, Introduction to Literature, Pedagogical Grammar, Stylistics, Language Teaching Methods, Syllabus Design and Testing, Introduction to Research, Research Methods in Linguistics*
 - **Postgraduate Courses Taught:** *Advanced Academic Reading and Writing, Language Testing and Assessment, Language Teacher Education and Development, Research Methods in Applied Linguistics, Teaching English for Academic Purposes, Corpus Linguistics*
 - Supervised FYPs and MSAL theses as main and co-supervisor
 - Final Year Class Advisor, Final Year Project Coordinator
 - LMS Facilitator (during online education)

- OBE Coordinator (Humanities)
- Member: Board of Studies (Humanities) (2019-22), Curriculum Review Committee (Humanities), Industrial Advisory Board (Humanities), Advisory Board, Applied Linguistic Club (ALC)

- 2015-2018** **Visiting Faculty (English)**
Department of Humanities
NED University of Engineering and Technology
- 2013-2018** **Lecturer (English)**
Govt. Karachi College for Women
Taught English compulsory courses to Intermediate and Bachelors students
- 2011-2013** **Lecturer**
Department of English
Jinnah University for Women
Courses Taught: Functional English, Language in Use, Academic Reading and Writing, Introduction to Literature, Romantic Poetry, Critical Approaches to Literature, World and South Asian Literature

Projects (Part Time Employment)

- February – June 2023** **Program Officer, NED English Works Program 2022-23**
A project sponsored by US Consulate and RELO Pakistan, and implemented by Humanities Department, NEDUET
- Nov 2021 – Mar 23** **Language Teacher at NED ACCESS Microscholarship 2021-23**
A project sponsored by US Consulate and RELO Pakistan, and implemented at Coswajee School by Humanities Department, NEDUET
- Mar – Sep 2016** **Junior Linguist at NLP Urdu Text to Speech Project**
A project collaborated by DHA Suffa University (Karachi), Centre of Language Engineering (Lahore) And University of Konstanz (Germany).

Publications

- 2020** **A Multilayered Urdu Treebank** (2020). Proceedings of the Conference on Language & Technology 2020. Center for Language Engineering, University of Engineering and Technology, pp. 1-7.
<https://www.cle.org.pk/Publication/papers/2020/A%20Multilayered%20UrduTreebank.pdf>
- 2019** **Language Assessment in Higher Education: Challenges and Consequences.** (2019). Pakistan Journal of Education, 36(3), 163-185.
[HEC Recognized 'X' category Journal]

<https://pje.aiou.edu.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/9AlmasSajidaZaki.pdf>

- 2019** **Medium of Instruction in Education: Perceptions of Pakistani School, College, University Teachers and Students.** (2019). FWU Journal of Social Sciences, 13(3). [HEC Recognized 'X' category Journal]
[http://sbbwu.edu.pk/journal/FWU_Journal_Jan2020/12.%20Medium%20of%20Instruction%20in%20Education%20Perceptions%20of%20Teachers%20and%20Students%20from%20Pakistani%20School,%20College%20and%20University%20\(1\).pdf](http://sbbwu.edu.pk/journal/FWU_Journal_Jan2020/12.%20Medium%20of%20Instruction%20in%20Education%20Perceptions%20of%20Teachers%20and%20Students%20from%20Pakistani%20School,%20College%20and%20University%20(1).pdf)
- 2016** **ESL Learners' Writing Skills: Problems, Factors and Suggestions.** (2016) Journal of Education and Social Sciences (JESS), 4(2), 81-92. [HEC Recognized 'Y' Category]
<https://geistscience.com/JESS/issue2-16/Article1/JESS1604201.pdf>
- 2016** **Analyzing Characteristics of Reading Test Tasks Designed for Undergraduate Language Assessment.** (2016) Journal of Independent Studies – Management, Social Sciences, and Economics, 14(1). [HEC Recognized 'Y' Category]
https://jirmsse.szabist.edu.pk/Location/ANALYZING_CHARACTERISTICS_OF_READING_TEST_TASKS.pdf

Conference Presentations

- 2019** **Revisiting Language Models and Contemporary Language Assessment Practices** at 1st International Conference on English Language and Linguistics, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, March 2019
- Current Trends in Language Teachers' Assessment Literacy: Gaps and Implications** at 1st International Conference of Department of English Language and Literature, University of Management and Technology (UMT), Lahore, April 2019
- 2017** **Analysis of the Test Task Characteristics Designed for Undergraduate Language Courses** at University of Sindh International Conference on Language and Literature (USICOLL), University of Sindh, Jamshoro, November 2017.
- Unfolding Knowledge through Practice: Literacy Teachers' Reflections on Periodic Assessment of Reading** at 3rd International Conference of the Linguistic Association of Pakistan (ICLAP), NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, October 2017.
- Projection of Identity in Pakistani Undergraduate Students' Academic Writing: An Exploratory Study** at 3rd International Conference of the Linguistic Association of Pakistan (ICLAP), NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, October 2017.
- Language Assessment in Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities** at 1st International Conference on Innovation and Emerging Trends in Education and Social Sciences, Iqra University, Karachi, May 2017.

- 2016** **Implicit or Explicit Grammar Teaching: Teachers' and Students' Perceptions** at 1st National Conference on Linguistics and Literature, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Shaheed Benazirabad, November 2016.
- Medium of Instruction in Pakistan: Perceptions of Pakistani Teachers and Students** at Policy Dialogue on Language, Air University, Islamabad, October 2016.
- Grammatical Functions as Function Tags in Urdu Treebank** at 2nd International Conference of the Linguistic Association of Pakistan (ICLAP), The University of Punjab, Lahore, October 2016.
- Summative Assessment Practices for Undergraduate EAP Courses: An Exploratory Study** at 2nd International Conference of the Linguistic Association of Pakistan (ICLAP), The University of Punjab, Lahore, October 2016.
- 2015** **Factors Affecting the Writing Skills of Pakistani Undergraduate Students** at 31st SPELT International Conference, Karachi, November 2015.
- An Investigation of Listening Strategies Use by Pakistani L2 Learners at Intermediate Level** at 1st International Conference of the Linguistics Association of Pakistan, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, October 2015.
- Exploring the Phenomenon of 'New Language' on Modern Communication Tools** at 1st International Conference of the Linguistics Association of Pakistan organized by Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, October 2015.

Achievements and Honors

- 2022** Selected for online attendance of **TESOL Convention 2022** sponsored by RELO Pakistan and US Consulate. The convention was held from 22-25 March 2022
- 2021** Selected for the **First OPEN Cubed Pakistan Program** as an **online course facilitator**. The program was sponsored by RELO Pakistan and US Consulate and ran into two phases, training and course implementation, from May to October 2021
- Selected for **Oxford Prelim Project (January – April 2021)**, a collaborated project of British Council, IATEFL, and English UK
- Selected for online attendance of **TESOL Convention 2021** sponsored by RELO Pakistan and US Consulate. The convention was held from 24-27 March 2022
- 2020** Selected for an 8-week online teacher training course on **Using Educational Technology in English Language Classrooms** delivered by **Iowa State University** in Spring 2020 Cohort (April -June 2020) by OPEN program (*previously known as American E-teacher Program*) sponsored by US Department of State administered by FHI 360.
- I was nominated as one of the **TOP 10 High Achievers** in the entire Spring 2020 Cohort in the closing ceremony
- 2019** Selected for a two-weeks training on **Curriculum and Academic Design**,

sponsored by HEC and RELO Pakistan in Islamabad

Program Committee Member of **1st NED Women Conference**

- 2017** Program Committee Member of **International Conference of Linguistic Association of Pakistan (ICLAP)**
- 2016** Selected for a one-week course on **Research Methodology and Skills** on 23-27 May at Regional Center, HEC Karachi under **ELTR Project**
- 2014** Selected for **Indigenous ELT Scholarship** under HEC ELTR Program for **MS program in Applied Linguistics**
- 2010** Secured **3rd position** in a national **Essay writing competition** held by National Museum of Science and Technology, Lahore
- 2009** Secured **1st position** in the departmental **Essay writing competition** held by Department of English at Jinnah University of Women
- 2005** Received **Certificate of Excellence** on producing excellent result in Intermediate (HSC) by the college management

Research Supervision

- MS Theses**
- Developing Speaking Skills and Fluency of ESL Students through Task-Based Language Teaching (2018)
 - Exploring Pakistani English: A Corpus Analysis of Pakistani English Newspapers and Magazines (2018)
 - Developing English Language Essay Writing Skills of Pakistani HSC Level Students through Peer Feedback: Effectiveness and Challenges (2018)
 - Using Analytic Rubrics for ESL Writing Tasks: Implementations and Implications (2019)
 - Ownership and Identity: A Qualitative Survey on Tertiary Level Students of English Majors at a Public University in Karachi (2019)
 - Correlating Undergraduate ESL Learners' Digital Literacy and Learning Style Preference with Attitudes towards Mobile Assisted Language Learning (2021)
 - Collaborative Writing Using Google Docs: A Strategy for Promoting Writing Skills of College Students (2022)
- Undergraduate FYPs**
- Perceptions and Practices of Kindergarten English Language Teachers on Teaching Reading through Phonics (2018)
 - Stylistics and Critical Discourse Analysis of Gender Differences in Pakistani English Novelists (2018)
 - Interplay between Introversion and Extroversion and Oral Communication Skills of ESL Learners at University (2019)
 - A Correlational Study of Motivation, Investment and Academic Achievement of Undergraduate ESL Learners (2019)

A Corpus-based Investigation of the Use of PakE in Tertiary Classrooms and Survey of Teachers and Students' Attitudes (2022)

Phrasal Verbs in Students' Academic Assignments: A Corpus Based Comparison of BAWE and Pakistani Students' Writing Corpus (2023)

Workshops / Seminars

- 2022** Conducted a workshop on **Using Graphic Organizers and Google Docs for Collaborative Reading and Writing** for language teachers at Humanities Department, NED University of Engineering and Technology on 12 May 2022
- 2020** Delivered an online Guest Speaker session on **Comprehending & Analyzing the Construct of Qualitative Research** at Department of Humanities and Social Science Department, Bahria University on 29 October 2020.
- 2018** Conducted a workshop on **Corpus Linguistics** for MS Scholars arranged by Humanities Department, NED University of Engineering and Technology on 25th January, 2018.
- 2017** Conducted an academic session on **Formative Assessment Techniques for Classroom** organized by SPELT on 7th October 2017.
- Delivered a speech/talk at a Postgraduate seminar on **Research Process: Methods and Modalities**, organized by Humanities Department, NED University of Engineering and Technology on 5th May 2017.
- 2016** Conducted a workshop on **What Do Examiners Look for in a Postgraduate Thesis?** under Research SIG at 32nd SPELT International Conference held on 29-30th October 2016.
- Conducted a workshop on **Formative Assessment Classroom Techniques (FACTs)** as part of the training course on Formative and Summative Assessment organized by Humanities Department, NED University of Engineering and Technology on 30th January 2016.
- 2015** Conducted a workshop on **Software for Doing Research in Corpus Linguistics (AntConc)** at 31st SPELT International Conference held on 7-8th November 2015.
- Conducted a workshop on **Teach them to Write More Vividly through Visualization** at 31st SPELT International Conference held on 7-8th November 2015.
- Conducted a 10-day workshop on **English Language Proficiency** organized by the Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University of Engineering and Technology for the freshman students from 8th to 18th June 2015.

Languages

- English (Professional working proficiency)
- Urdu (Native proficiency)
- Gujrati (Native Proficiency)

Membership

- Society of Pakistani English Language Teachers (SPELT)
- Linguistic Association of Pakistan (LAP)
- Society of Natural Language Processing (SNLP) - Pakistan