

Samantha Soon Sze Min, PhD

Linguist, consultant and educator

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PROFILE

A Sydney-based Malaysian linguist working across phonetics and phonology, multilingual language data, research and teaching.

I help researchers, students, educators, publishers, nonprofits and language-focused teams turn complex language material into clear writing, usable data, accurate translation and well-supported analysis. Growing up among contact languages shaped both my research questions and the practical care I bring to language work.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Phonetics and phonology

Speech data, transcription, Praat workflows, acoustic analysis, tone, vowel length, stress and sound-system analysis.

Research support

Research design, literature-review planning, transcription and annotation workflows, qualitative analysis and documentation.

Translation and localization QA

Chinese-English and English-Mandarin translation, editing, proofreading, localization review and multilingual QA.

Multilingual language data and AI evaluation

Annotation guidance, translation adequacy, linguistic quality review, code-switching and language-specific error analysis.

RESEARCH

Research interests include tone, tone loss, vowel length, stress, prosody, contact-induced phonological change, language documentation and socio-phonetics.

- 2025

"Kwényĩ (Far South, New Caledonia) – Language Snapshot." *Language Documentation and Description*, 25(1).
- 2023

"Kwényĩ: A Sketch Grammar from a Historical Perspective." Doctoral dissertation, University of Sydney.
- Accepted

"Monophthongisation in Shammari Arabic: Acoustic evidence for shared phonological behaviour of gutturals, emphatics, and coronal sonorants." With Badr Alshammari and Gwendolyn Hyslop. Accepted by *Arabic Linguistics*, forthcoming.
- Under review

"Phonetic and Phonological Observations on Kwényĩ." Revised manuscript with *Oceanic Linguistics*.
- In prep.

"Tonoexodus in Kwényĩ? Residual tone, low functional load, and contact ecology in New Caledonia."
- Earlier

Loanword phonology in Penang Hokkien, Singapore English phonology and linguistic landscapes.

TEACHING	Nanjing University of Science and Technology	since 2023
	University of Sydney	2020–2026
	KDU University College, Penang	2015–2016
	Praat for Beginners	Documenting Tone
	Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology	Writing a Sketch Grammar
	Academic Writing for Linguistics	Multilingual Language Data for AI Evaluation
	From Thesis Chapter to Journal Article	Translation, Register and Cross-Cultural Meaning
	Language Documentation Basics	

TRANSLATION	Since 2019	Freelance translation, editing and proofreading. Web fiction, religious publications, nonprofit communications, policy-adjacent materials and cross-cultural content. Most client work is unpublished; samples available on request where appropriate.
	2025	"Assault on the Body." Translator. Graceworks, Singapore.
	2024	"Good News for Bruised Reeds: Mental Health and the Gospel Community." Proofreader and editor. Graceworks, Singapore.

LANGUAGES	English · Mandarin · Hokkien · Malay · Cantonese · French · Korean	
	Methods and tools: language documentation, fieldwork, transcription, acoustic analysis, Praat workflows, speech and text data review, workshop and course design.	

EDUCATION	PhD in Linguistics, University of Sydney	2023
	MA in Linguistics, Nanyang Technological University	2015
	BA (Honours) in Linguistics, Nanyang Technological University	2008–2012