

## May A. Abumelha

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### Education

- 2011 - 2016      Ph.D. in Linguistics  
University of Leeds, Dept. of Linguistics and Phonetics.  
School of Modern Languages Cultures and Societies  
Thesis:  
*The role of input in the acquisition of English articles by L1 Najdi Arabic speakers.*  
The results from an experimental classroom study shows that explicit instruction using authentic reinforced texts benefits second language learners in acquiring features that show acquisition difficulties due to L1 transfer, feature re-assembly and rare evidence in the input.  
Supervisors: Main supervisor: Professor Melinda Whong, Internal supervisor at KSU: Dr. Eman Kamal  
Examiners: Professor Roumyana Slabakova, Professor Cecile De Cat.
- 2003 - 2008      Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics (G.P.A. 4.63) from the English department, College of Arts at King Saud University.
- 1995 - 2000      Bachelor of English translation with second class honour (G.P.A. 4.34) from the College of Languages and Translation at King Saud University.
- 1995              Achieved 9<sup>th</sup> in rank over students of the middle region, KSA in the high school diploma unified exams with an average of 98%.

### Work experience

- 2008 - present      English Department, College of Arts, King Saud University  
Lecturer in Linguistics  
Teaching responsibilities have included:  
Undergraduate courses: Applied Linguistics, Translation, Techniques in Language teaching, Syntax, and Discourse Analysis.  
Administrative responsibilities have included:  
Schedules committee, Department improvement committee.
- 2001 - 2003      Translator at Law firm.

## **Publications**

### **Books**

- 2016      *Investigating the effect of strategy instruction on language learning.*  
Lambert Academic Publishing.

### **MA dissertation**

- 2008      *Language learning strategies: Investigating the effect of explicit strategy instruction on English language learning of King Saud University female students in Saudi Arabia.*  
Supervisor: Professor Mahmoud I. Saleh

## **Conference presentations**

- 2014      International Conference on Language Acquisition for Young Researchers, *The acquisition of English articles by Arabic speakers.* University of Lisbon, Portugal, 27 Jun.
- 2012      Linguistics and Phonetics Post Graduate Conference. *The role of input in the acquisition of the English article system by Arab learners: an investigation into interface difficulties*, University of Leeds, 27 Jun.

## **Invited presentations**

- 2014      English department, College of Arts, KSU, The acquisition of English articles by Najdi speakers, Department Seminar, 8 Apr.
- 2012      University of Leeds, Language Linguistics and Translation LLT PG group, *Generative SLA and the language classroom.* 25 Oct.
- 2011      Postgraduate SLA Research discussion forum, *Investigating universal semantics: Aspect in English and Arabic.* University of York, Leeds/Sheffield/York SLA research Hub, 1 Nov.

## **Conference attendance**

- 2014      University of Oxford, The Annual meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain, 1-6 Sep.
- 2013      Sorbonne Nouvelle- Paris, Department of Linguistics and Phonetics, The acquisition of referring expressions conference AEREF, 25-26 Oct.
- 2013      University of Leeds, Linguistics, Language and Translation PG conference, 13 Jun.

### **Training and experience**

- 2016 Deanship of Skills Development KSU, *Mechanisms of discovering the talented and creative and their teaching*. 20 Dec.
- 2013 University of London UCL, The Institute of Modern Languages Research Training program, 19 Oct.
- 2013 University of Leeds Information System Services Department ISS, SPSS intermediate workshop. 10 Jun.
- 2013 University of Leeds Staff and Departmental Development Unit, Introduction to effective research writing. 3 Jun.
- 2013 Deanship of Skills Development KSU, New insights for innovative leadership. 21-22 Apr.
- 2012 University of Leeds Information System Services Department ISS, *Excel for research manipulating data*, 17 Oct.
- 2012 University of Huddersfield, *Statistics for Linguistics a workshop with Professor Chris Butler*, 14-15 Jun.
- 2012 University of Leeds Staff and Departmental Development Unit, *Preparing for your transfer*, 12 Jun.
- 2012 University of Leeds Staff and Departmental Development Unit, Giving Effective Seminar and Conference Presentations (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences), 12 Jun.
- 2012 University of Leeds Staff and Departmental Development Unit, *Make the Most of Your Research and Keep it Safe (Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences)*, 7 Jun.
- 2012 University of Leeds Information System Services Department ISS, *Word for thesis and long documents*, 6 Jun.
- 2012 University of Leeds Staff and Departmental Development Unit, *Effective Poster Presentations (Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences)*, 29 May.
- 2012 University of Leeds Staff and Departmental Development Unit, *Project Managing Your Research Degree*, 31 May.
- 2011 Leeds PGR Seminars SMLC, *Formulating research questions*, 14 Nov.
- 2011 Faculty coordinated researcher development, *Working with literature: Impact, evaluation, and reading strategies*, 3 Nov.
- 2011 Leeds PGR Seminars SMLC, *Research interviews*, 31 Oct.
- 2011 University of Leeds Staff and Departmental Development Unit, *A Balancing Act - Dealing with the Stress of Doing a Research Degree*, 25 Oct.
- 2011 University of Leeds Skills @ Library, *An introduction to Endnote: Online Webinar*, 26 Oct.

2011	Leeds PGR Seminars SMLC, <i>Discourse analysis: Issues and applications</i> , 24 Oct.
2011	Leeds PGR Seminars SMLC, <i>Bibliographies and referencing</i> , 17 Oct
2011	Leap Training Hub, University of Leeds, Full day: <i>starting your research degree</i> . 13 Oct.
2011	Leeds PGR Seminars SMLC, <i>Library session</i> , 10 Oct.
2011	Deanship of Skills Development KSU, Effective classroom management and dealing with disruptive students, 18 May.
2011	Deanship of Skills Development KSU, Helping students to think critically. 17 May.
2010	Deanship of Skills Development KSU, <i>Student assessment and feedback</i> , 7 Dec.
2010	Academic IELTS overall score 8.5, 5 Aug.
2010	Deanship of E-learning and distance learning KSU, Learning Management System. 8-9 June.
2010	Deanship of Skills Development KSU, <i>Teaching effectively with electronic technologies</i> . 15-16 May.
2008	U.S Embassy Riyadh & Prince Sultan University, <i>English Language Institute: Shaping the way we teach English</i> . 17-21 May.
2008	ICDL international Computer Driving License qualification

### **Research Interests**

My current research interests include:

- Exploring L1 Arabic speakers' acquisition of English grammatical structures within generative theory by identifying the features in L1 & L2 and the role of L1 transfer and input.
  - Integrating findings from linguistic theory into language pedagogy.
  - Investigating the effect of explicit and implicit types of input on language acquisition through experimental classroom research.
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