

Curriculum Vitae

Nicholas John Sobin

Contact information:

Department of Languages & Linguistics
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Education:

A.B. 1967, German, University of Missouri-Columbia.

A.M. 1969, Linguistics, University of Missouri-Columbia.

Ph.D. 1974, Linguistics, The University of Texas at Austin.
Dissertation: *Aspects of the Temporal Interpretation of English Sentences*
(directed by C.L. Baker).

Areas of specialization: syntax, linguistic theory, language variation, computational linguistics.

Other areas of interest: bilingualism, second language acquisition, linguistics pedagogy.

Honors & Awards:

1963-65 Curators' Scholarship, University of Missouri-Columbia.

1973 Phi Kappa Phi, The University of Texas at Austin.

1979 Seminar scholar, NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers, "Current Issues in Linguistic Theory," Arnold M. Zwicky, director, The Ohio State University, Columbus.

1982&83 Summer scholar, Ukrainian Summer Institute, Harvard University.

1988 Faculty Summer Research Stipend, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

1992 Faculty Summer Research Stipend, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

- 1994 Faculty Excellence Award for Research, College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.
- 2006 Developmental Leave Grant, University of Texas at El Paso.

Academic appointments:

- 1967-69 Research Assistant, Center for Research in Social Behavior, University of Missouri-Columbia. Project supervisor: Marvin D. Loflin.
- 1970-74 Teaching Assistant, Department of English, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 1971 Teaching Assistant, Department of Linguistics, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 1972 Research Assistant, Department of Linguistics, The University of Texas at Austin. Project supervisor: David DeCamp.
- 1974-81 Assistant Professor, Department of English, Pan American University, Edinburg, Texas.
- 1975-79 Assistant Professor, Language & Linguistics Research Center, Pan American University.
- 1981-94 Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.
- 1984-86 Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Iowa.
- 1989 Visiting Scholar, Department of Linguistics & Philosophy, M.I.T.
- 1989 Research Associate, Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard University.
- 1989-94 Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.
- 1994-2001 Professor, Department of English, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.
- 1996 Visiting Scholar, Department of Linguistics & Philosophy, M.I.T.
- 1996 Visiting Scholar, Department of Linguistics, Harvard University.

2000-01	Lecturer, Department of Linguistics, University of Wales, Bangor, U.K.
2001-present	Professor Emeritus, Department of English, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.
2002	Reader, Department of Linguistics, University of Wales, Bangor, U.K.
2002	Invited Faculty, Northwest Centre for Linguistics, University of Manchester, U.K.
2003-	Professor, Department of Languages & Linguistics, The University of Texas at El Paso.
2006	Visiting Scholar, Department of Linguistics & Philosophy, M.I.T.
2006	Visiting Scholar, Department of Linguistics, Harvard University.

Subjects taught:	Syntactic theory & analysis Introduction to linguistics Computational linguistics Morphology and syntax of English Language variation Language & society Bilingualism/second language acquisition Regional & social dialectology Semantics Applied linguistics History of English ESL & Writing
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Review work:

Journal submissions/ reviews:	<i>Linguistic Inquiry</i> <i>Natural Language & Linguistic Theory</i> <i>Language</i> <i>The Linguistic Review</i> <i>Syntax</i> (former editorial board member) <i>Lingua</i> <i>Linguistic Analysis</i> <i>Journal of Linguistics</i> <i>The Bilingual Review/La Revista Bilingue</i> <i>Southwest Journal of Linguistics</i> <i>Journal of Slavic Linguistics</i>
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Grant submissions:	National Endowment for the Humanities (USA) National Science Foundation (USA) Economic & Social Research Council (UK)
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Publications:

forth- “TH/EX, Agreement, and Case in Expletive Sentences,” *Syntax*.
coming

- 2014 “Finding Subjects: Agreement, Case, and Split EPP,” *Proceedings of 40th Western Conference on Linguistics*, Vol. 22, C. Renaud, C. Ghanem, V. Gonzalez Lopez, & K. Pruitt, eds. Dept. of Linguistics, California State University, Fresno, CA. 120-130.
- 2011 *Syntactic Analysis: The basics*. Blackwell: Oxford.
- 2010 “Echo Questions in the minimalist program,” *Linguistic Inquiry* 41, 131-148.
- 2009 “Echo Questions and Split CP,” *Dislocated Elements in Discourse: Syntactic, Semantic, and Pragmatic Perspectives*. Benjamin Shaer, Philippa Cook, Werner Frey, and Claudia Maienborn, eds., Routledge, New York. 95-113
- 2009 “Prestige Case Forms and the Comp-trace Effect,” *Syntax* 12, 32-59.
- 2008 “Do so and VP,” *Linguistic Inquiry* 39, 147-160.
- 2004 “Expletive Constructions Are Not LRC Movement Constructions.” *Linguistic Inquiry* 35, 503-508.
- 2004 “The Relative Roles of Theory and Acquisition Studies.” *Journal of Child Language* 31, 505-507.
- 2003 “Negative Inversion as Non-movement.” *Syntax* 6, 183-212.
- 2003 “On the Role of Prescriptive Grammar.” *Syntax in the Schools* 19, 1-4.
- 2002 “The Comp-trace Effect, the Adverb Effect, and Minimal CP,” *Journal of Linguistics* 38, 527-560.
- 2002 “Determiners in Genitive Constructions,” *Lingua* 112, 597-618.
- 2000 “Minimal CP and the Adverb Effect,” *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics* vol. 25, J. Kyle & S. Stowers, eds., Linguistics Graduate Student Association, University of Kansas, Lawrence, 15-38.
- 2000 with Howard Lasnik, “The *Who/whom* Puzzle: On the preservation of an archaic feature,” *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 18, 343-371.
- 1999 “Prestige English is not a Natural Language,” *Language Alive in the Classroom*, R. S. Wheeler, ed., Praeger, Westport, CT, 23-36.

- 1997 "Agreement, Default Rules, and Grammatical Viruses," *Linguistic Inquiry* 28, 318-343.
- 1996 Review of Alison Henry (1995), *Belfast English and Standard English*, *Language* 72, 630-633.
- 1994 "An Acceptable Ungrammatical Construction," *The Reality of Linguistic Rules*, R. Corrigan, G.K. Iverson, and S. Lima, eds., John Benjamins, Amsterdam, 51-65.
- 1994 "Why We Should Reconsider Teaching Grammar: A response to the romantic position," *Language Quarterly* 32(1-2), 51-74.
- 1991 "Agreement in CP," *Lingua* 84, 43-54.
- 1991 "An AI Approach to Teaching Linguistics," *Innovations in Linguistic Education* 5.2, 21-34.
- 1990 "On the Syntax of English Echo Questions," *Lingua* 81, 141-167.
- 1989 "Echo Question Formation in English," *Proceedings of the 19th Western Conference on Linguistics*, F.H. Brengelman, V. Samiian, and W. Wilkins, eds., Dept. of Linguistics, California State University, Fresno, 310-317.
- 1987 "The Variable Status of COMP-Trace Phenomena," *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 5(1), 33-60.
- 1987-1988 "On the Study of Bilingual Acquisition," a review of A Fantini, *Language Acquisition of a Bilingual Child* (1985), *The Bilingual Review/La Revista Bilingue*, 14(3), 79-83.
- 1985 "Case Assignment in Ukrainian Morphological Passive Constructions," *Linguistic Inquiry* 16(4), 649-662.
- 1984 "On Code-Switching Inside NP," *Applied Psycholinguistics*, 5, 293-303.
- 1983 "Gapping as Evidence of Distinct L2 Acquisition," *Spanish in the U.S. Setting*, L. Elias-Olivares, ed., National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education, Washington, D.C., 37-50.
- 1982 "On Gapping and Discontinuous Constituent Structure," *Linguistics* 20, 727-745.
- 1982 "Texas Spanish and Lexical Borrowing," *Spanish in the United States*, J. Amastae and E. Elias-Olivares, eds., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 166-181 (republishing of 1976 article).
- 1981 "On Adv/PP-First Reductions," *Linguistic Inquiry* 12(3), 488-491.

- 1980 "On Deletion Rules and Transference," *Speaking, Singing and Teaching: a Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Language Variation*, F. Barkin and E. Brandt, eds., Arizona State University Press, Tempe, 409-419.
- 1980 "On Transference and Inversion," *Festschrift for Jacob Ornstein*, E. Blansitt and R. Teschner, eds., Newbury House, Rowley, Mass., 265-273.
- 1980 "On the Subject of Gapped Sentences," *Papers in Linguistics*, 13(1), 101-115.
- 1978 "On Echo Questions in English," *Papers from the 1977 Mid-America Linguistics Conference*, D. Lance and D. Gulstad, eds., University of Missouri-Columbia, 247-259.
- 1978 "On Complex Sentence Constructions," *Bilingual and Biliterate Perspectives*, A. G. Lozano, ed., University of Colorado, Boulder, 112-121
- 1977 "On the Study of Syntax and Bilingualism," *Southwest Areal Linguistics Then and Now: Proceedings of the Fifth Southwest Areal Language and Linguistics Workshop*, B. Hoffer and B. L. Dubois, eds., Trinity University Press, San Antonio, Texas, 247-263.
- 1977 "Notes on the Acquisition of Interrogative-Word Questions," ERIC ED 144 377.
- 1977 with J. Amastae, *Describing Languages*, Pan American University Print Shop, Edinburg, Texas.
- 1976 "Pragmatics of Lurking," *Linguistic Inquiry* 7(4), 726-728.
- 1976 "Texas Spanish and Lexical Borrowing," *Papers in Linguistics* 9(1-2), 15-47.
- 1973 with M. Loflin and J. L. Dillard, "Auxiliary Structures and Time Adverbs in Black American English," *American Speech* 48(1-2), 22-28.
- 1971 with M. Garcia-Zamor, "On the Inadequacy of Some Recent Syntactic Proposals," *Papers in Linguistics* 4(3), 559-575.

Papers presented:

- 2014 “No Movement-Morphology Connection,” 8th Arizona Linguistics Circle Conference, University of Arizona, Tucson.
- 2013 “Finding Subjects: Agreement, Case, and Split EPP,” Western Conference on Linguistics, Arizona State University, Tempe.
- 2012 “Explaining TH/EX,” Manchester Symposium on Existentials, School of Languages, Linguistics, and Cultures, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK.
- 2011 “The TH/EX Puzzle” (poster) Invited Presentation, LING50, Scientific Reunion of the Dept. of Linguistics & Philosophy, MIT, Cambridge, Mass.
- 2011 “*There* Insertion and the TH/EX Puzzle” 5th Arizona Linguistics Circle, Dept. of Linguistics, University of Arizona, Tucson.
- 2009 “Echo Question Syntax,” (poster) Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, San Francisco, California.
- 2009 “Echo Questions,” Linguistics Colloquium, Department of Languages & Linguistics, The University of Texas at El Paso.
- 2007 “Prestige Case and the Comp-trace Effect,” invited presentation, School of Linguistics & English Language, University of Wales, Bangor, Wales.
- 2007 “Echo Questions and CP Structure,” Linguistics Colloquium, Department of Languages & Linguistics, The University of Texas at El Paso.
- 2005 “Prestige Forms and Case Theory,” First International Conference on the Linguistics of Contemporary English, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 2003 “Echo Questions, Echo Negation, and Split CP,” Workshop on Dislocated Elements in Discourse, Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, Berlin, Germany.
- 2002 “Negative Inversion as Non-movement,” Linguistics Association of Great Britain Spring Meeting, UMIST, Manchester, England.
- 2001 “Echo Questions and CP Structure,” Linguistics Association of Great Britain Spring Meeting, Leeds University, Leeds, England.
- 2000 “The Virus Approach to Grammatically Deviant Prestige Constructions,” invited presentation, Department of Linguistics, University of Essex, England.
- 2000 “Determiners in Possessive Expressions,” invited presentation, Department of Linguistics, University of Wales, Bangor, Wales.

- 1999 “Whom and the English Case System,” with Howard Lasnik, XIV International Conference on Historical Linguistics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia.
- 1998 “The Comp-trace Effect, the Adverb Effect, and Minimal Structure,” Linguistics Association of Great Britain Spring Meeting, Lancaster University, Lancaster, England.
- 1997 “On the Adverb Effect,” Linguistics Association of the Southwest Annual Meeting, UCLA, Los Angeles.
- 1997 “The Adverb Effect Reconsidered,” Mid-America Linguistics Conference, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri.
- 1996 “On Contrary Grammatical Phenomena and Grammatical Viruses,” invited presentation, Department of Linguistics, Harvard University.
- 1996 “Contrary Grammatical Phenomena in Standard English,” invited presentation, Department of Applied Linguistics, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.
- 1995 “Contrary Grammatical Phenomena: A case for grammatical viruses,” Colloquium on Syntax & Varieties, Heinrich Heine University (University of Duesseldorf), Duesseldorf.
- 1994 “Non-Local Agreement,” Southeastern Conference on Linguistics Annual Meeting, Memphis.
- 1993 “Problems in Agreement,” South Central Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas.
- 1992 “An Acceptable Ungrammatical Construction,” 21st Annual University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee Linguistics Symposium, Milwaukee.
- 1991 “The Learnability of Standard Grammatical Features,” 42nd Annual Conference on College Composition and Communication, Boston.
- 1990 “Agreement in CP,” Twentieth Western Conference on Linguistics, The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas.
- 1989 “Echo Question Formation in English,” Nineteenth Western Conference on Linguistics, Arizona State University, Tempe.
- 1986 “Case and Grammatical Function in Ukrainian Passives,” Annual Meeting of the South Central Modern Language Association, New Orleans.
- 1985 “Fusion in COMP,” Sixtieth Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Seattle, Washington.

- 1983 "On COMP-Trace Constructions in English," Fifty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Minneapolis, Minn.
- 1982 with J. Amastae, "The Phonology of Texas Pride," First Annual Western Humor and Iron Membership Conference, Arizona State University, Tempe.
- 1982 "Language Separation and Gapping," invited presentation, Department of Linguistics, The University of Texas at El Paso.
- 1982 "A Discontinuous Constituent Structural Account of Gapping," Annual Meeting of the South Central Modern Language Association, San Antonio, Texas.
- 1981 "Code-Switching Inside NP," Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest, Austin, Texas.
- 1980 "Theoretical Implications of Bilingualism: the Lexicon," Invited panelist, IV Symposium on Spanish and Portuguese Bilingualism, Juarez, Mexico.
- 1980 "Gapping as Evidence of Distinct L2 Acquisition," Conference on Spanish in the U. S. Setting, University of Illinois-Chicago Circle.
- 1979 "A Partial Reanalysis of Conditions on Gapping," Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of the Southwest, New Orleans.
- 1979 "Gapping: the Subject Condition," Fifty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Los Angeles.
- 1979 "On Deletion Rules and Transference," Eighth Southwest Areal Language and Linguistics Workshop, Arizona State University, Tempe.
- 1978 "On Complex Sentence Structure," Seventh Southwest Areal Language and Linguistics Workshop, University of Colorado, Boulder.
- 1978 "Investigating Southwest Language Varieties," invited panelist, Seventh Southwest Areal Language and Linguistics Workshop, University of Colorado, Boulder.
- 1977 "On Echo Questions in English," 1977 Mid-America Linguistics Conference, University of Missouri-Columbia.
- 1976 "On the Study of Syntax and Bilingualism," Fifth Southwest Areal Language and Linguistics Workshop, Long Beach, Calif.
- 1969 with M. D. Loflin, "Transformational Rules and Competing Generalizations in the Auxiliary of BlackAmerican English," Third Annual Kansas Linguistics Conference, Lawrence.

1968 with M. D. Loflin, "Auxiliary Structure and Time Adverb Fields in Black American English," Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society, New Orleans.

Other professional activities:

1971-99; Member, Linguistic Society of America.
2005-present

- 1975 Co-organizer, Conference on English and the Mexican American, Pan American University, Edinburg, Texas.
- 1976- Member, South Central Modern Language Association.
- 1977-99 Member, Linguistics Association of the Southwest
- 1977 Secretary, Applied Linguistics section, South Central Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Hot Springs, Arkansas.
- 1978 Chair, Applied Linguistics section, South Central Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas.
- 1979 Co-organizer, Pan American University Language Forum on Language Testing and Assessment, Pan American University, Edinburg, Texas.
- 1980-81 Member, Advisory Board, Institute of Borderlands Studies, Pan American University, Edinburg, Texas.
- 1980-83 Member, Executive Committee, Linguistics Association of the Southwest.
- 1983 Secretary, General Linguistics section, South Central Modern Language Association, Annual Meeting, Fort Worth, Texas.
- 1984 Chair, General Linguistics section, South Central Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Biloxi, Mississippi.
- 1989 Chair, Computer Text Analysis section, Conference on College Composition and Communication, Seattle, Washington.
- 1990 Chair, Syntax section, Twentieth Western Conference on Linguistics, The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas.
- 1994 Chair, Grammar section, Southeastern Conference on Linguistics Annual Meeting, Memphis, Tennessee.
- 1994 Chair, Morphosyntax section (IV), Linguistic Association of the Southwest

Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas.

1994-99 Member, Southeastern Conference on Linguistics.

1995-99 Member, American Association for the Advancement of Science

1997 Chair, Syntax II, Linguistics Association of the Southwest Annual Meeting, UCLA, Los Angeles.

2000-present Member, Linguistics Association of Great Britain.

Significant university service:

The University of Texas:
at Austin Member, Steering Committee, Linguistic Students'
Association.

Student representative to linguistics faculty meetings.

Pan American University: Faculty Senator from the School of Humanities.

Chair, Faculty Senate Committee on the Evaluation of
Administrators.

Member, University Committee on student Evaluation of
Faculty.

Member, Composition Committee, Department of
English.

University of Arkansas:
at Little Rock Chair, Department of English

Director, Linguistics Program.

Chair, Transition Advisory Committee to the Dean for
overseeing the division of the English Dept.

Chair, Existing Program Review Committee, conducting
the external review of the English program for the
Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Faculty Senator from the College of Arts, Humanities &
Social Sciences

	Member, University Tenure Committee
	Member, University Graduate Council
	Member, Personnel Committee (promotion & tenure), Department of English.
	Chair, Promotion, Tenure, and Service Committee, Department of English.
	Member, Graduate Committee, Department of English.
	Member, Composition Committee, Department of English.
	Chair, Honors & Scholarship Awards Committee, Department of English.
	Advisor, Undergraduate Advising Office and University College.
	Co-organizer, Science and Humanities Lecture Series lectures by Noam Chomsky, December 4-5, 1985.
	Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Evaluation, Department of English
University of Iowa:	Chair, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Linguistics.
	Member, Graduate Examination Committee, Department of Linguistics.
University of Wales: (Bangor University)	Part Two Course Tutor (Upper-division Program Director)
	Deputy Head of Department, Department of Linguistics
	Research Seminar Organizer
	University Faculty Board Member
University of Texas: at El Paso	Director and Graduate Advisor for Linguistics
	Undergraduate Advisor for Linguistics

Member, Departmental Advisory Committee

Member & Convenor, PARF (faculty evaluation)
committee

Member, Chair Search Committee

Faculty Senator

Department Web Liaison

Linguistics Program Publications Officer/Editor

Member, Search Committee for Hispanic Linguistics
Position

Member, Search Committee for Language Acquisition
Position