

## **Report on 16th International Conference on Corpus Linguistics (CILC2025)**

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CILC2025 proved to be a valuable experience in learning more about the applications and developments in corpus linguistics as well as allowing me the chance to network with some leading researchers in the field and receive feedback on my own research. Over the course of three days, I was able to enjoy several presentations that provided fresh insight into corpus methods as well as presentations that helped me develop a better understanding of applications of AI in linguistics research. The conference also provided an opportunity to speak to several linguists from a variety of fields, including researchers who specialized in translation studies and researchers who focused on LLMs. Finally, the conference helped me understand my own research in a new way and engage with previous literature more meaningfully.

Previously, I lacked a comprehensive understanding of how artificial intelligence and large language models (LLMs) had impacted corpus methods, but over the course of the conference, I attended several presentations that considered the role of AI from various angles. A presentation from renowned corpus linguist Mark Davies explored a potential method of research in foreign language teaching that combined corpus tools with LLMs to allow for improved translations. Researcher Rebekah Wegener provided insight into important considerations for building high quality datasets when using AI. I also attended several presentations where researchers used LLMs as a tool to analyze various datasets. The conference helped me learn more about the applications of LLMs and AI in linguistics research, which was particularly useful considering my previous lack of understanding about LLMs.

Additionally, I was able to meet other linguists from a wide background of disciplines and with a variety of research applications. I was able to talk at length with several of the plenary speakers, including corpus linguists Mark Davies, Rebekah Wegener, James Balfour, and Marc Alexander, all of whom provided a unique perspective on the research impact linguists can have and applications of corpus methods. As someone who primarily focuses on research in forensic linguistics, attending a conference that focused on a particular method of analyzing language rather than a specific field allowed me to gain a better understanding of the different uses of corpus tools and engage with linguists from a variety of fields. Ultimately, the conference allowed me to speak to and network with linguists outside of the niche group of forensic linguists I normally interact with.

Finally, in developing my presentation, presenting my own research, and discussing my PhD thesis with other speakers, I was able to restructure my own understanding of the thesis chapter I presented on and engage with previous literature in a new way. Over the past year, I've been primarily focused on writing up the first chapter of analysis for my PhD thesis on linguistic features found in mass shooter manifestos. In the process of developing my presentation for this conference, I was able to make new connections about the significance of my own research in the context of previous studies on manifestos as a genre. Furthermore, when presenting my research and discussing it with other linguists, I was able to gain insight into specific areas of

interest I should expand on in future presentations and publications. This has proved to be incredibly helpful in writing up the current chapter of my PhD.

Overall, attending and presenting at CILC2025 was a valuable experience that allowed me to learn more about uses of LLMs when considering corpus methods, to network with other corpus linguists, and to reorient my research in order to more fully engage with previous literature. Thanks to CIPL, I was able to take full advantage of an opportunity that I can confidently say has allowed me to develop as a PhD candidate, researcher, and linguist.