

Miriam A.B. Akoto

Sam Houston State University
Department of World Languages and Cultures
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English with a specialization in Applied Linguistics, Texas A & M University-Commerce, TX, December 2021

- Dissertation: *Computer-based Collaborative Multimodal Writing in the French FL Context*
- Committee: Mimi Li, Lucy Pickering, Dongmei Cheng, and Kristen E. Michelson

M.A., French, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, May 2016

B.A., French with a minor in English Language & Literature, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, May 2013

Certificates

- Certificate in the Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), Texas A & M University-Commerce, 2020
- Teaching Online Certificate, Office of Instruction and Assessment (OIA), University of Arizona, 2015
- Diploma in French Studies, Centre International de Recherche et d'étude de Langues (CIREL-VILLAGE DU BENIN), Université de Lomé, 2012

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of French

Fall 2022 – present

Department of World Languages and Cultures, Sam Houston State University

Courses Taught:

FREN 4370 (French and Francophone Cultures Through Film)

FREN 4075 (Individual French Readings)

FREN 2312 (Intermediate French II)

FREN 2311 (Intermediate French I)

FREN 1412 (Elementary French II)

FREN 1411 (Elementary French I)

Lecturer of French

Fall 2021 - Summer II 2022

LSA Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan

Courses Taught:

FRE 230, FRE 231 & FRE 232 (Second-Year French)

FRE 103 (First-Year French)

Graduate Teaching Assistant/Instructor of Record

Fall 2016 – Summer II 2021

Department of Literature and Languages, Texas A&M University-Commerce

Courses Taught:

FRE 2312 (Intermediate French II)

FRE 2311 (Intermediate French I)

FRE 1311 (Elementary French I)

FRE 1312 (Elementary French II)

ENG 1301 (College Reading and Writing)

ENG 1302 (Written Argument and Research)

ENG 100 (Introduction to College Reading & Writing)

Graduate Teaching Assistant/Instructor of Record

Fall 2014 – Spring 2016

Department of French and Italian, University of Arizona

Courses Taught:

FRE 101 (Elementary French I) – Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Summer I 2015

FRE 102 (Elementary French II) – Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Summer II 2015

FRE 201 (Intermediate French I) – Fall 2015, Spring 2016

FRE 202 (Intermediate French II) - Fall 2015, Spring 2016

RESEARCH INTERESTS

French Foreign Language Acquisition

Second/Foreign Language Writing

Digital Multimodal Composition & Collaborative Writing

Writing Assessment & Peer Feedback

Computer-Assisted Language Learning & Web 2.0 tools in Foreign Language classrooms

SCHOLARSHIP

Refereed Journal Articles

Zhang, M., Akoto, M., & Li, M. (2023). Digital Multimodal Composing in Post-secondary L2 Settings: A Review of the Empirical Landscape. *Computer Assisted Language Learning*, 1-29. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09588221.2021.1942068>

Li, M., & Akoto, M. (2021). Review of recent research on L2 digital multimodal composing.

International Journal of Computer-Assisted Language Learning and Teaching (IJCALLT), 11(3), 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.4018/IJCALLT.2021070101>

Akoto, M. (2021). Collaborative multimodal writing via Google Docs: Perceptions of French FL learners. *Languages*, 6(3), 140. <https://doi.org/10.3390/languages6030140>

Refereed Book Chapters

Gibbons, J., & **Akoto, M.** (2023). Use of digital technologies for collaborative writing. In M. Li & M. Zhang (Eds.), *L2 collaborative writing in diverse learning contexts*. Philadelphia, PA: John Benjamins. <https://doi.org/10.1075/llt.59.09gib>

Akoto, M., & Li, M. (2022). Exploring the processes and products of collaborative multimodal writing in a French as a foreign language class. In J. Colpaert & G. Stockwell (Eds.), *Smart CALL: Personalization, Contextualization, and Socialization* (pp. 207–232). London: Castledown Publishers. <https://doi.org/10.29140/9781914291012-10>

Manuscripts in press

Akoto, M., & Li, M. (under review). From Negotiation to Creation: Examining Patterns of Interaction and Collaborative Multimodal Writing Products in a French as a Foreign Language Context. *System*.

Manuscripts in preparation

Li, M., & **Akoto, M.** (in preparation). Assessing L2 digital multimodal composition using the visual metadiscourse framework.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

International and U.S. National

2023 Research Priorities Initiative Grant. American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Funded \$3,800

Sam Houston State University

2023 New Faculty Internal Grant. Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP). Funded \$4,000

Texas A&M University-Commerce

2021 Graduate Student Virtual Conference Presentation Grant (\$500)

2020 H.M. Lafferty Graduate Scholarship Endowment (\$3000)

2019 Mary Rives Bowman Appreciation Endowment (\$1000)

2017 Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$250)

2016 CHSSA Doctoral Student Scholarship Fund (\$1000)

University of Arizona

- 2015 1st place, French Poetry Competition, Department of French and Italian, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona
- 2015 “Excellence in Teaching Award”, Department of French and Italian, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

International and U.S. National

Akoto, M. (2024, March) *Genre-Related Episodes in a French FL class: Exploring students' genre knowledge through collaborative multimodal writing*. Roundtable Paper accepted at the American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL) Conference, Houston Texas.

Akoto, M., & Li, M. (2022, March) *Collaborative Multimodal Writing in the French as a Foreign Language Class*. Paper presented at the American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL) Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Akoto, M., & Li, M. (2021, June) *Collaborative Multimodal Writing and Peer-Assessment: Students' perceptions of this new writing pedagogy*. Paper presented at the Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO).

Akoto, M., & Li, M. (2021, March) *Collaborative Multimodal Writing Using Google Docs in the Foreign Language Class*. Paper presented at the American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL) Virtual Conference.

Akoto, M., & Li, M. (2020, July) *Exploring peer interactions in computer-based collaborative multimodal writing: A case study in the French FL context*. Paper accepted at the Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL 2020), 21st International CALL Research Conference, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan. (Cancelled due to COVID-19).

Akoto, M., & Li, M. (2020, March) *Collaborative Multimodal Writing Using Google Docs in the Foreign Language Class*. Paper accepted at the American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL) Conference, Denver, CO. (Cancelled due to COVID-19).

Regional, State, and Local Presentations

Akoto, M. (2019, November). *Multimodal Collaborative Writing in the Digital Age: A Study of French L2 learners' use of Google Docs*. Poster presented at the 11th Annual DFW Metroplex Linguistics Conference at University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

Akoto, M. (2018, February). *Teaching Language through Puns: A Project on Beginner French Students*. Poster presented at the 8th North East Texas Humor Research Conference at Texas A&M University-Commerce, Commerce, TX.

Akoto, M. (2017, April). *The AAC Workplace Corpus Project*. Poster presented at the Graduate Assistant Research Symposium at Texas A&M University-Commerce, Commerce, TX.

Akoto, M. (2017, March). *Paivio's Dual Coding Theory: Using Pictures to Teach Vocabulary*. Poster presented at the 8th Annual Federation Graduate Student Research Symposium at Texas Women's University, Denton, TX.

Akoto, M. (2017, March). *Vocabulary Acquisition in Beginner Level French Students: A Pilot Study*. Paper presented at the 16th Annual Southwest Graduate Conference in Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Akoto, M. (2016, November). *The Dual Coding Theory and Vocabulary Acquisition: A Study of Beginner Level French Students*. Paper presented at the 13th Annual Pathways Student Research Symposium at Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Membership

American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL)

Symposium on Second Language Writing (SSLW)

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)

American Association of University Supervisors, Coordinators and Directors of Language Programs (AAUSC)

Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO)

African Studies Association (ASA)

Ghana Studies Association (GSA)

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Service to the Profession

Reviewer for the Language and Technology (TEC) strand, American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL), 2023

Reviewer for Language Teaching Research (LTR) journal, 2021-present

Diversity Sub-committee member of Graduate Student Council (GSC), American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL), 2019 – 2020

Reviewer for the 2020 Best of Independent Journals of Rhetoric and Composition, November 2019

Organizing Committee member of International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) Conference, Co-hosted by Texas A&M University-Commerce & University of Texas at Austin, June 2019

Judge for 2019 Texas Foreign Language Symposium, April 2019

Judge for 2019 University Interscholastic League (UIL) Ready Writing Contest, April 2019

Student Conference Organizer for 9th Humor Research Conference, Hosted by the Department of Literature and Languages, Texas A&M University-Commerce, March 2019

Service to the University

Sam Houston State University

College and University

Guest Lecture, MCOM 4393 Global Media (with Christopher Toula), April 2024

Editorial Board Member, Journal of Undergraduate Research (The Measure), College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), 2023-present

Committee Member for Academic Community Engagement (ACE), College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), 2023-present

Faculty Mentor for CHSS Skills Challenge, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), 2024

Faculty Mentor for the SHSU ASPIRE Mentorship program for Graduate Student Success, 2024

Committee Member, Diversity and Inclusion, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), 2022-2023

Department

Committee Chair, WOLC Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Evaluation, 2024

France Study Abroad Program Co-Director (with Kristen Kennedy Terry), 2023-present

Recruitment and Special Events Committee Member, World Languages and Cultures (WOLC), 2022-present

Co-Faculty Advisor for the French and Francophone Club, 2022-present

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Graduate Student member, Academic Dishonesty Hearing Panel, College of Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts (CHSSA), February 2020

Secretary, Student Board of Directors, SODEXO, 2016 - 2020

Vice-President, German Club, 2016 - 2018

Student Recruiter for CHSSA at TEXTESOL Conference, Austin, TX, October 2016

SKILLS

Languages

English (native), French (near-native), Akan (mother tongue)

Technology

- Web 2.0 applications (e.g., Blogs, Podcasts, Prezi, Wikis)
- Course management systems (e.g., Blackboard, Canvas, Desire2Learn, E-College, Moodle)
- Multimedia production software (e.g., Adobe Flash, Adobe Photoshop, Audacity,

Camtasia)

- Digital Social Reading: Live Margin; Annotation Studio
- Videoconferencing software (e.g., Elluminate, Skype, Zoom)
- Research software applications (e.g., SPSS, Atlas.Ti)