

Debra H. Biasca

Summary of Qualifications

- ◆ Dedicated teacher
- ◆ Experienced writing, editing, technical documentation, and translation professional
- ◆ Broad-based analytical research professional

Education and Certification

- ◆ Ph.D., Linguistics, University of Colorado
- ◆ J.D., University of Colorado
- ◆ B.A. cum laude, French; Minors: English, Education, Kalamazoo College, MI
- ◆ Professional Mediator Certification Center for Dispute Resolution, Denver; Association of Family Conciliation Courts
- ◆ Certification, Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Colorado
- ◆ Secondary teaching certification, State of Michigan

Employment History

- ◆ Present — Instructor, Scientific Writing, Department of Physics, University of Colorado - instructing graduate and undergraduate levels of technical and scientific writing for physics, astronomy, astrophysics, engineering, geosciences, biochemistry, computer science
- ◆ 2008 – Present — Consulting in Linguistics and Technical Communication – Technical training and documentation; research, and analysis; translation
- ◆ 2006 – 2008 — Silver Creek Systems, Inc (Westminster, CO); Manager, knowledge engineering for natural-language-processing/data-governance solutions for large enterprises; role also included documentation, training, and software testing
- ◆ 2005 — Toshiba America Electronics Corp (Boulder, CO); Technical editorial consultant for audio-visual chip user manuals
- ◆ 2002–2005 — Sun Microsystems, Inc (Westminster, CO); Consultant, linguistics/technical documentation, editing multi-media training materials for hardware and software products
- ◆ 1999–2001 — NetSage Corporation (Golden, CO); Speech recognition software development & dialogue design; technical documentation and training development
- ◆ 1993–1999 — University of Colorado; University level instructor, Psycholinguistics, French, English-as-a-Second Language
- ◆ Prior to 1993 —
 - Dominick & Halperin, Esqs (Boulder, CO); Practicing attorney with practice concentrated in family law/child advocacy
 - Secondary teaching (English; French), Battle Creek Public Schools. Battle Creek, MI.

Grants and Awards

- ◆ Deans Small Grants for research, Jacobsen Syndrome. University of Colorado, 1995; 1996
- ◆ Institute for Cognitive Science, University of Colorado, travel grants; 1998
- ◆ Links2Go Key Resource award, Parenting Information and Support category, 1998. For design, implementation, search-engine indexing, maintenance of 11q Research & Resource Group web site
- ◆ Handi-Ramp, Inc., Distinguished Service to the Disabled Community for Jacobsen syndrome web site, 1998
- ◆ Nomination, Phi Beta Kappa
- ◆ Listing, Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities

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Professional Associations

Current

- ◆ Boulder Editors
- ◆ Boulder Media Women
- ◆ Boulder Writers Alliance
- ◆ Colorado Translators Association

Past

- ◆ Linguistic Society of America
- ◆ American, Colorado, Continental Divide, and Boulder County Bar Associations
- ◆ Association of Family Conciliation Courts
- ◆ American Orthopsychiatric Association
- ◆ Chair, Colorado Bar Association Committee on Alternatives to Adversary Dispute Resolution
- ◆ City of Boulder, Landlord–Tenant Mediation Project Advisory Board
- ◆ Colorado Council of Mediation Organizations, Board of Directors, 1984–85
- ◆ Mediation and Arbitration Task Force, American Bar Association Family Law Section, 1983–84

Community Service

- ◆ Boulder Community Hospital – The Grillo Health Information Center – Volunteer researcher, 2010–present
- ◆ Colorado Translator’s Association – Editorial volunteer, 2008
- ◆ Boulder Writer’s Alliance, Board of Directors, 2002–3
- ◆ Boulder Yiddish Vinkl, founder and president, 1992–2007
- ◆ The Family Extension (child foster placement agency), Board of Directors, 1987–89
- ◆ Boulder County Community Action Program, Board of Directors, 1979–1980
- ◆ Boulder YWCA, legal counsel, 1979–1981
- ◆ City of Boulder, Board of Zoning Adjustment, 1977–79
- ◆ Boulder County Women’s Resource Center, legal counsel, 1975–80

Courses Taught

- ◆ Writing in Physics and Topics in Scientific Writing, academic/scientific writing courses for undergraduate and graduate students in life sciences, physics, engineering and related fields at the University of Colorado; 2008–present
- ◆ Basic and advanced corporate training for NLP software users – engineers (mechanical, computer science, electrical); quality assurance engineers; sales engineers; customer implementation consultants; end-users.
- ◆ Language and US Society, Department of Linguistics, University of Colorado 1994, 1995, 1996 (Teaching Assistant)
- ◆ Language and US Society, Department of Linguistics, University of Colorado, 1997 (Instructor)
- ◆ English-as-a-Second Language, International English Center, Tutoring Program (Japanese and Chinese native speakers) and intensive winter break program for Korean students, 1997
- ◆ Language and Gender, Department of Linguistics, University of Colorado, 1998 (Teaching Assistant)
- ◆ French language and literature, W.K. Kellogg Junior High School, Battle Creek Public Schools; private instruction for adults
- ◆ English grammar and composition, Battle Creek Central High School, Battle Creek Public Schools
- ◆ Yiddish language and literature for adults, 1993–present

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- ◆ Yiddish Literature, Guest Lecturer, Menorah Adult Education Program, Boulder, CO, 2001

Writing, Editorial and Research Projects

- ◆ Participated on grantwriting team for smart energy platform business, resulting in \$20M federal grant award
- ◆ Drafted and edited policy-and-procedure manual for local school district's mentoring program
- ◆ Edited book proposal for expert in parenting psychology
- ◆ Edited veterinarian's procedure manual for small animal ultrasound techniques
- ◆ Composed, organized, and maintained (proprietary) technical documentation and training materials for NLP software company
- ◆ Researched complex eCommerce-based international product classification codes such as UNSPSC and produced FAQs to enable data-mining software developers to automate classification code usage by customers
- ◆ Edited memoir: Piller-Greenspan, Ida. and Branting, Susan. 2006. *When the World Closed Its Doors*. Boulder: Paradigm Publishers. (Editor, Biasca, Debra)
- ◆ Edited PhD dissertations, linguistic phonetics
- ◆ Technical Editor and Production Quality Assurance Specialist, edited 500–1500-page book, workbook and slide presentations generated on PC and UNIX systems for Sun Microsystems software and hardware products
- ◆ Designed and wrote effective user manuals and training tutorials based on engineers' feature descriptions for highly complex software products and applications
- ◆ Created product taxonomies for semantic processing software serving eCommerce and industrial distributors across diverse product domains—standard retail products, healthcare supplies, industrial parts and supplies
- ◆ Used LaTeX to edited, typeset, and index 430-page theoretical linguistics collected volume: *Mismatch: Form-Function Incongruity and the Architecture of Grammar*. Francis, E. J., and Michaelis, L. A., eds. Palo Alto: CSLI at Stanford, 2003.
- ◆ Copy Editor, *Law Quarterly* – Outdoor recreation law bulletin published in Boulder, CO.
- ◆ Co-authored language specification documentation and syntax description for proprietary dialect of Java programming language
- ◆ Analyzed survey results across US and Territories and compiled reports for national criminal justice information agency; subjects: employment opportunities for convicted felons; inter-agency transfer practices and policies
- ◆ Co-authored technical manual for automated speech recognition project describing use of discourse-level tags and algorithms for assessing intra-coder consistency
- ◆ Designed, wrote, then served as managing editor of nationally recognized bilingual (Yiddish/English) publication reaching 300 subscribers with 6-8 issues annually

Technical Skills and Tools

- ◆ Windows, Macintosh, UNIX
- ◆ Microsoft Office applications; vi, Adobe FrameMaker, Adobe InDesign, RoboHelp
- ◆ LaTeX (Structured/tagged publication system for technical books)
- ◆ Database, spreadsheet, statistical (SPSS), financial, and natural language editing applications
- ◆ VSS, RCS, Subversion version control software
- ◆ HTML, XML, VoXML, Front Page, Dream Weaver, Perl and Java for web site construction and maintenance
- ◆ Nuance 6.2+ static/dynamic grammar authoring and dialog design related to natural language understanding for voice-enabled telephony applications
- ◆ Speech synthesis tools (SpeechBench; Audacity)

Management Skills and Accomplishments

- ◆ Recruited, trained, and managed team of knowledge engineers; grew team from 1– 5 engineers over 1.5-year period; team created over 75 subject-matter domain taxonomies for NLP software product
- ◆ Event coordinator for grant-funded, weekend-long educational event for local non-profit

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- ◆ Managed seven-person annotation team of graduate students for federally funded speech recognition research project
- ◆ Curriculum Development Manager for combination automated-and-traditional customer service center, serving B-to-B and B-to-C eCommerce
- ◆ Law firm management
- ◆ Founder, director and volunteer coordinator for non-profit endangered language preservation society, with responsibility for strategic planning, programming, hiring, and managing volunteer and paid staff

Foreign Language Proficiency

- ◆ French: Native fluency, reading, writing, and speaking
- ◆ Spanish, Yiddish: Reading with moderate spoken fluency
- ◆ Italian: Reading and good travel-level spoken fluency
- ◆ Arabic, French, Hebrew, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Yiddish: Phonetic decoding ability; ability to read script

Publications and Conference Presentations

- ◆ Biasca, Debra H. 2005. Interstate transfers of prison inmates in the US, Special Issues in Corrections, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections.
- ◆ Biasca, Debra H. 2002. Corrections employment eligibility for ex-offenders. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections.
- ◆ Biasca, Debra H. 2000 Linguistic Society of America. Linguistic and cognitive development in Jacobsen syndrome. Chicago, IL (poster presentation).
- ◆ Biasca, Debra H. 1999. Development in Jacobsen Syndrome: Language, Cognition and Genetics. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Colorado.
- ◆ Biasca, Debra Halperin. H. Aronson (editor). Grammaticalization of *aleyn* in Yiddish. In *Proceedings of NLS-9*, University of Chicago Press.
- ◆ Jurafsky, Daniel, Shriberg, Liz, & Biasca, Debra. 1997. *Switchboard-DAMSL Shallow-Discourse-Function Annotation Coders Manual*. ICS Tech. Rep. No. 97-02. Boulder, CO: University of Colorado Press.
- ◆ Biasca, Debra. Child language acquisition and 11q deletion syndrome. 1st Annual 11q Research & Resource Conference; Dallas; April, 1996.
- ◆ Biasca, Debra. Comparative study of contrast marking in Yiddish, Russian, Hebrew and German. 9th Annual Conference on Non-Slavic Languages of the (former) Soviet Union; University of Chicago, May, 1995.
- ◆ Bell, Alan and Biasca, Debra. The Effect of Word Stress on P-Center in English Disyllables. Acoustical Society of America; Austin, 1994
- ◆ Biasca, Debra. Grammaticalization of *aleyn* in Yiddish. Department of Linguistics, University of Colorado/Boulder. 1995.
- ◆ Ethical dilemmas in family practice, 67th Annual Meeting, American Orthopsychiatric Association; Miami; April 1990 (panel member).
- ◆ Is Litigation the Only Way? Conference on Women and the Law, University of Rochester (NY), 1986.
- ◆ Politics of Mediation. 62nd Annual Meeting, American Orthopsychiatric Association; New York City; April, 1985 (panel member)
- ◆ Biasca, Debra. Mediation training for the judiciary. Colorado Judicial Institute, 1982 and 1983.
- ◆ Biasca, Debra; Jenkins, Lowell; Mayer, Bernard; Michener, Charlotte, Rogers, Peter. Mediation methodology training. Boulder County Mental Health Center. 1983
- ◆ Biasca, Debra; Rogers, Peter. Guest Lecture, Divorce mediation and the law. University of Colorado School of Law, 1982, 1983.
- ◆ Biasca, Debra; Blumstein, Edward; Perlmutter, Felice; Divorce Mediation: Assuring Equal Access. 61st Annual Meeting, American Orthopsychiatric Association; Toronto; April, 1984.

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