Kai Park

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Work authorization: Germany (post-study residence permit), no visa sponsorship needed

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Computational linguist working at the intersection of empirical linguistics and language model evaluation.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- **AI & Product Strategy:** language model alignment, RLHF annotation, human-in-the-loop evaluation, benchmark design, cross-functional stakeholder management
- **Tools & Frameworks:** Statistical modeling (R/Python), Cloud resource orchestration (GCP), Empirical experimental design
- **Languages:** Korean (native), English (C1 / professional), German (C1 / professional)

PUBLICATIONS & KEY RESEARCH

- Park, K. (2026). The Grue Divide: When Cognitive Accuracy Doesn't Predict Affective Alignment. Poster, PANDORA @ EMNLP 2026. (Sole author; https://bakeyeon.github.io/colorfish/ developed from the author's MA thesis.) https://aclanthology.org/2026.pandora-1.2
- MA thesis, "Can the Use of Derivatives Affect Cognition? A Large-Scale Empirical Study on Morphological Derivation and the Korean Blue-Green Spectrum." https://publications.goettingen-research-online.de/handle/2/182236
- Public-facing research writing: "Can We Translate Our Sentiments?" (blog.gopenai.com, 2026) — accessible piece revisiting 2024 term-paper research on cross-lingual emotional nuance and perceptual color cognition, featured in DeepL Bridges launch materials (https://www.deepl.com/en/blog/connecting-insights-deepl-bridges).

RESEARCH & PRODUCT FRAMEWORK PROJECTS

Large-Scale Cognitive Data Architecture (Master's Thesis Project and PANDORA paper)

- Designed, built, and deployed a web-based empirical experiment platform, collecting 9,534 analyzed trials from 1,159 participants (~2,200 recruited); formulated statistical models and data pipelines to quantify morphological cognition effects.

Light Verbs, Heavy Meaning? (MA seminar term paper, Göttingen)

- Tested Polinsky and Magyar's (2020) informativity account of head-final lexicons on Korean simplex verbs vs. root+hata constructions via dictionary sense counts, embedding self-similarity (KLUE-BERT, KcBERT, Vertex AI), and corpus frequency; found the predicted asymmetry held in 58% of 38 conditions and was item-driven rather than structurally deterministic (github.com/bakeyeon/light-verbs-heavy-meaning).

Modal Particles, Emojis & Sentiment Translation (MA term paper series, HHU Düsseldorf)

- Survey study finding significant correlation between the emotional scores of German modal particles and expressive emojis, extended with a benchmark of FastText, Hugging Face, and BERT sentiment models (github.com/bakeyeon/Modalparticles_Emojis, github.com/bakeyeon/modalparticles_sentiment_analysis).
- Built "Sentiment Translator," a Gemini/AI Studio prototype visualizing cross-lingual sentiment shifts via an interactive emoji-based emotion map (github.com/bakeyeon/sentiment_translator).

WORK EXPERIENCE

Freelance Linguistic Editor — AI Alignment (Korean/English) Nov 2024 – Present
DeepL SE, Language Data Team | Research
Remote

- Human-in-the-loop RLHF alignment: preference ranking, minimal-error editing, and full rewriting to build gold-standard datasets for Korean LLM alignment. Formulated structural linguistic rationales and proposed new decision criteria for cross-lingual semantic ambiguity (KO–EN).
- Part of DeepL Bridges Early Access; research on linguistic nuance featured in official platform launch materials, including work on modal-particle sentiment and emoji-mediated translation, and the survey platform built for the "Grue Divide" paper (Poster, PANDORA workshop, EMNLP 2026).

Freelance Localization QA Specialist & Translator
May 2022 – Nov 2026

CCJK Technologies (Marstranslation) / SUCCESSGLO PTE LTD

Remote

- Delivered linguistic QA, translation, voice-over (tech/legal/compliance), and full/technical MTPE across Korean–English and German–Korean pairs; served as final QA on 100+ tasks, including Korean voiceover localization for English IVR systems.
- Handled UI-based length-overflow issues in German–English–Korean localization for automotive infotainment clients, and provided structured peer review for junior linguists, working with Trados and proprietary QA tools.

Head of Strategic Planning & Brand Strategist
May 2016 – Jul 2016

Minor to Winner (Social Venture)

On-site

- Led strategic planning as one of two core team members alongside the founder during early-stage company building, taking on cross-functional ownership of operations, branding, and HR.
- Scaled the team by onboarding 8 new members within the 3-month mandate to fuel rapid expansion.
- Co-led rebranding initiatives for regional industry promotion.
- Secured government grant funding and led contract negotiations with public and private stakeholders.

Performance Marketing Planner (AE) — Internship
Dec 2015 – May 2016

9 Fruits Media

On-site

- Owned budget planning and allocation for multi-channel growth campaigns on a major TV home-shopping platform, directing creative-team briefs and deliverables end-to-end.
- Drove measurable conversion growth via data-driven content optimization and cross-platform tracking: Facebook purchase-link clicks +173% in 2 months (829 → 2,265); Kakao conversion clicks +516% in 6 months (25 → 154); Naver link clicks +408% in 6 months (123 → 625).
- Managed publication workflows and authored monthly performance and competitor-analysis reports for client stakeholders.
- Led client-facing communication and marketing analytics.

EDUCATION

- M.A. in Linguistics, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen — 2023–2026 (Primary coursework completed at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, degree conferred by Göttingen), Notendurchschnitt (GPA): 1.4 / 1.0 (German Scale; Sehr Gut, ohne Masterarbeit/Master's thesis grade 1.0)
- Pre-MBA (Social Entrepreneurship Management Program), KAIST College of Business — 2016; selected as key talent alongside the CEO during her tenure at Minor to Winner, program fully sponsored by SK Group
- B.A. in English Literature and Languages (Minor: Mass Communication), Pusan National University — 2011–2015
- Teaching Korean as a Foreign Language Program, NILE Korea — 2023–2024
- Relevant coursework in Computer Science (Informatik), TU Darmstadt — 2020–2023

HONORS & AWARDS

- **Google Cloud TPU Research Cloud Grantee (2026)**; architected and open-sourced a Python-based Spot TPU orchestration tool to streamline environment setup, enabling fellow TRC researchers to bypass infrastructure friction. (github.com/bakeyeon/gcloud-tpu-spot-automator)
- **The Next Century Humanities Scholarship** — full-ride national scholarship, Ministry of Education (2011)
- Invited to the Frontier Research Club 2026 series
- **Cannes Lions Korea & Innocean Worldwide, Busan Region Award (2014):** Team Lead and Main Presenter for a 3-person team; conceived and presented an integrated PR campaign on teen smartphone overuse.
- **Creative Arena, 3rd Place National Final (2014):** Team Lead and Main Presenter for a 3-person team; presented an AMD brand-reputation campaign live to 5,000+ attendees (COEX, broadcast on AfreecaTV). Separately, a proposal concept from the competition was selected for implementation on organizer Stu:m Creation's official platform.
- **KT&G Marketing Competition, National Excellence Award (2013):** Team Leader and Lead Planner; won multiple 1st-place regional rounds en route to the national award.
- **Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission of Korea, Top Prize for Online PR (2012):** Owned monthly budget allocation for a multi-institution PR campaign; grew a Naver Blog to 1M+ page views and led a 1,000-attendee offline campaign.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Teaching Korean as a Foreign Language (Level 2) — National Institute of Korean Language (2024)
- Language certifications: EF SET English (C1 Advanced, 2024) · TestDaF (CEFR C1, 2019) · IELTS Academic (CEFR C1, 2023)