

Åshild Næss

Curriculum Vitae

Full name: Åshild Næss
Date of birth: August 7, 1974
Place of birth: Bærum, Norway
Nationality: Norwegian

Work experience

2017- Professor of Linguistics, University of Oslo
2016-2017 Associate Professor of Linguistics, University of Oslo
2015 Senior Lecturer in Linguistics, University of Newcastle, Australia
2012-2014 Lecturer in Linguistics, University of Newcastle, Australia
2010 Visiting Professor, Seminar für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, University of Zürich
2009 Editorial staff member, Norsk Ordbok 2014 (Norwegian Dictionary 2014)
2009 Advisor, Norwegian Ministry of Research and Education
2008-2009 Postdoctoral research fellow on the project *Breaking the Time Barrier: Structural Traces of the Sahul Past*, Radboud University Nijmegen
2004-2007 Postdoctoral research fellow on the cross-disciplinary project *Identity Matters: Movement and Place*, Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo, Norway.
2000-2003 PhD student, University of Nijmegen
1999 Research assistant on the project *Pileni texts and vocabulary*, University of Oslo
1998 Research assistant (part-time) to Professor Even Hovdhaugen, University of Oslo

Education and qualifications

2014 TEHE (Teaching in Higher Education) 6030: Assessment of Student Learning, University of Newcastle
2013 TEHE 6020: Course design, University of Newcastle
2012 TEHE 6010: Principles and practice of higher education, University of Newcastle
2009-2011 Courses on second language acquisition/Norwegian as a second language, University of Oslo:
NOAS 1100 – Introduction to Norwegian as a second language
NOAS 2101 – Norwegian grammar in a second-language perspective
NOAS 2104 – Second-language literacy
NOAS 4103 – Grammatical topics in a second-language perspective
2004 Ph.D. *cum laude*, linguistics, University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
Dissertation title: *Transitivity: from semantics to structure*.
1998 MA in linguistics, University of Oslo, Norway.
Thesis title: *Pileni: a sketch of the grammar of a Polynesian Outlier language*.
1996 BA, University of Oslo, Norway. Subjects: Linguistics; French; Language, Logic and Information

Collaborative research projects

- 2016- Ergativity in comprehension and production: language typology and processing
Collaborator on project led by Prof. Balthasar Bickel at the University of Zürich (<http://www.research-projects.uzh.ch/p21996.htm>). The project examines whether there is an ‘anti-ergative’ bias in language processing and production through psycholinguistic tests in a set of languages with ergative or symmetrical-voice properties. My role is to co-design and run tests for Äiwoo (replacing Tuvaluan in the original project design) with postdoc Sebastian Sauppe.
- 2011- Affiliated partner on “Evolution of Semantic Systems”, Max Planck Institute of Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen
The project aims to investigate how meanings vary over space and change over time. A broad experimental study of Indo-European languages is conducted, focusing on different kinds of categories: containers, colour, body parts, and spatial relations. My role is to collect and analyse data on Norwegian, and contribute to the overall analysis and dissemination of results.
- 2008 Postdoc on “Breaking the Time Barrier: Structural Traces of the Sahul Past”, Radboud University Nijmegen
The project aimed to develop tools for linguistic reconstruction and the tracing of prehistoric relationships inspired by biological cladistics and applied to the reconstruction of the sound systems and grammars rather than the vocabulary. My main role was data collection and coding.
- 2004-2007 Postdoc on “Identity Matters: Movement and Place”, University of Oslo
This multidisciplinary project aimed to study, from different perspectives, how prehistoric patterns of movement, settlement and social differentiation, as they are represented in and represent local identity practices, may be identified at work in the contemporary Pacific. The linguistic subproject concerned the linguistic situation in the Reef Islands in the eastern Solomon Islands. I was initially responsible for the documentation and description of the Äiwoo language and, in collaboration with Even Hovdhaugen, for the study of language contact between Äiwoo and its neighbour Vaeakau-Taumako. When Hovdhaugen retired from the project due to illness I also took over responsibility for the descriptive work on Vaeakau-Taumako, as well as for the supervision of two MA students.

Academic publications

Books

- 2017 *A short dictionary of Äiwoo*. [Studies in the Languages of Island Melanesia] Asia-Pacific Linguistics. <http://hdl.handle.net/1885/112469>
- 2011 (Åshild Næss and Even Hovdhaugen): *A grammar of Vaeakau-Taumako*. [Mouton Grammar Library 52] Berlin: de Gruyter Mouton.
- 2011 *Global grammatikk: Språktypologi for språklærere* [Global grammar: Language typology for language teachers]. Oslo: Gyldendal Akademisk.
- 2007 *Prototypical transitivity*. [Typological Studies in Language 72] Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- 2003 Transitivity: from semantics to structure. PhD dissertation, University of Nijmegen.
- 2000 *Pileni*. [Languages of the World/Materials 325] München/Newcastle: Lincom Europa.

Papers in peer-reviewed journals

- to appear: ‘Standing up to the canoe: competing cognitive biases in the encoding of stative spatial relations in a language with a single spatial preposition.’ *Cognitive Linguistics* 29:4.
- to appear: ‘Plural-marking strategies in Äiwoo.’ *Oceanic Linguistics* 57:1.

- 2017 'Beyond roots and affixes: Äiwoo deverbal nominals and the typology of bound roots.' *Studies in Language* 41:4, 914-955.
- 2015 'Voice at the crossroads: the symmetrical voice system of Äiwoo, Reef Islands, Solomon Islands'. *Oceanic Linguistics* 54:1, 270-307.
- 2015 'The Äiwoo verb phrase: syntactic ergativity without pivots'. *Journal of Linguistics* 51, 75-106.
- 2015 (Raphael Berthele, Matthew Whelpton, Åshild Næss, and Pieter Duijff): 'Static spatial descriptions in 5 Germanic languages'. *Language Sciences* 49, 82-101.
- 2015 (Susanne Vejdemo, Carsten Levisen, Cornelia van Scherpenberg, Þórhalla Gúðmundsdóttir Beck, Åshild Næss, Martina Zimmermann, Linnaea Stockall, and Matthew Whelpton): 'Two kinds of pink: development and difference in Germanic colour semantics'. *Language Sciences* 49, 19-34.
- 2013 'From Austronesian voice to Oceanic transitivity: Äiwoo as the "missing link"'. *Oceanic Linguistics* 52:1, 106-124.
- 2012 'Structural parallels between Vaeakau-Taumako and the Vanuatu Outliers: Capell revisited'. *Oceanic Linguistics* 51:2, 567-588.
- 2012 'Cutting and breaking in Äiwoo: Event integration and the complexity of lexical expressions'. *Cognitive Linguistics* 23: 2, 395-420.
- 2012 (Brenda H. Boerger, Åshild Næss, Anders Vaa, Rachel Emerine, and Angela Hoover): 'Sociological factors in Reefs-Santa Cruz language vitality: a 40 year retrospective'. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 214, 111-152.
- 2011 "Natur i Norge er det mye forskjellig": Det-setninger som topikaliseringsstrategi i tekster skrevet av vietnamesiske innlærere. ["Natur i Norge er det mye forskjellig": sentences with expletive subjects as a topicalisation strategy in texts written by Vietnamese learners of Norwegian] *NOA [Journal of Norwegian as a second language]* 27:2, 5-23.
- 2011 (Åshild Næss and Mathias Jenny): 'Who changes language? Bilingualism and structural change in Burma and the Reef Islands'. *Journal of Language Contact*, VARIA IV, 217-249.
- 2011 'Directional verbs in Vaeakau-Taumako.' *Oceanic Linguistics* 50:1, 120-139.
- 2011 'The grammar of eating and drinking verbs'. *Language and Linguistics Compass* 5/6, 413-423.
- 2008 (Åshild Næss and Brenda H. Boerger): 'Reefs-Santa Cruz as Oceanic: evidence from the verb complex.' *Oceanic Linguistics* 47, 185-212.
- 2007 (Åshild Næss and Even Hovdhaugen): 'The history of Polynesian settlement in the Reef and Duff Islands: the linguistic evidence'. *Journal of the Polynesian Society* 116.
- 2007 (Malcolm Ross and Åshild Næss): 'An Oceanic origin for Äiwoo, the language of the Reef Islands?' *Oceanic Linguistics* 46: 2, 456-498.
- 2006 'Bound nominal elements in Äiwoo: a reappraisal of the "multiple noun class systems"'. *Oceanic Linguistics* 45: 2, 269-296.
- 2003 'What markedness marks: The markedness problem with direct objects'. *Lingua* 114.
- 2002 'Transitivity and accusativity in Pileni'. *Rongorongo Studies* 12:2.
- 2000 'Possessive marking in Pileni'. *Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung* 53:3/4.

Book chapters

- to appear: 'Transitivity and argument marking in Vaeakau-Taumako: A comparative Polynesian perspective', Serzants and Kulikov (eds.), *Transitivity and voice in Indo-European and beyond: A diachronic typological perspective*. John Benjamins.
- 2011 (Even Hovdhaugen and Åshild Næss): 'Language is power: The impact of fieldwork on community politics', Haig et al. (eds.), *Documenting endangered languages: Achievements and perspectives*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.
- 2011 'Reefs-Santa Cruz: Reclassifying a language group'. In Ingjerd Hoëm and Reidar Solsvik (eds.): *The Oceania Project. Identity Matters: Movement and Place*, 63-77. The Kon-Tiki Museum Occasional Papers.
- 2011 'Case on the margins: pragmatics and argument marking in Vaeakau-Taumako and beyond', Kittilä et al. (eds), *Case, animacy and semantic roles*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- 2011 *reell-refusjon; roe-rognvaffel; rumba-rumstera; rå-råda*, dictionary articles, Norsk Ordbok [Norwegian Dictionary], Volume 9.
- 2010 (Åshild Næss and Even Hovdhaugen): 'Language contact in the Reef Islands: Keeping one's distance at close quarters'. In Paul Wallin and Helene Martinsson-Wallin (eds.): *The Gotland Papers. Selected presentations from the VII International Conference on Easter Island and the Pacific: Migration, Identity, and Cultural Heritage*. Visby: Gotland University Press/The Easter Island Foundation.
- 2009 'How transitive are EAT and DRINK verbs?' In John Newman (ed.): *The Linguistics of Eating and Drinking*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- 2008 'Varieties of dative'. In Andrej Malchukov and Andrew Spencer (eds.): *The Oxford Handbook of Case*, 572-580. Oxford University Press.
- 2007 'Defining transitivity: markedness vs. prototypicality'. In Matti Miestamo and Bernhard Wälchli (eds.): *New challenges in typology: Broadening the horizons and redefining the foundations*, 179-198. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- 2006 'Past, present and future in Reefs-Santa Cruz research'. In Linda Barwick and Nicholas Thieberger (eds.): *Sustainable data from digital sources: from creation to archive and back*. Sydney: Sydney University Press.
- 2006 'Case semantics and the agent-patient opposition'. In Leonid Kulikov, Andrej Malchukov and Peter de Swart (eds.): *Case, valency and transitivity*, 309-327. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- 2004 'Spatial deixis in Pileni'. In Gunter Senft (ed.): *Deixis and demonstratives in Oceanic languages*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.
- 2004 'Serial verbs and complex constructions in Pileni'. In Isabelle Brill and Françoise Ozanne-Rivierre (eds.): *Complex predicates in Oceanic languages: studies in the dynamics of binding and boundness*. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

Language documentation materials/text collections

- 2006 *Stories from the Reef Islands: Äiwoo texts with translations*. The Kon-Tiki Museum Occasional Papers 9. Oslo: The Kon-Tiki Museum.
- 2006 (Even Hovdhaugen and Åshild Næss): *A lalakhai ma talanga o Vaeakau ma Taumako (Stories from Vaeakau and Taumako)*. The Kon-Tiki Museum Occasional Papers 10. Oslo: The Kon-Tiki Museum.

2002 (Even Hovdhaugen, Åshild Næss and Ingjerd Hoëm): *Pileni texts with a Pileni-English vocabulary and an English-Pileni finderlist*. The Kon-Tiki Museum Occasional Papers 7. Oslo: The Kon-Tiki Museum.

Popular publications

2007 (Åshild Næss and Atle Næss): *Et hav av språk* [An ocean of languages]. Oslo: Gyldendal.

Grants and awards

- 2018 Where does grammar come from? The cognitive basis of transitivity and grammatical relations. Norwegian Research Council Researcher Project, NOK 9,654,000.
- 2014 Documenting Äiwoo: Small Grant, Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, GBP 9,981
- 2014 Conference travel grant, University of Newcastle (AUD 2,000)
- 2013 Conference travel grant, University of Newcastle (AUD 1,500)
- 2012 New Staff Grant, University of Newcastle (AUD 10,000; project title: A Linguistic Archive of Äiwoo)
- 2012 Conference travel grant, University of Newcastle
- 2011 Conference travel grant, Association for Linguistic Typology.
- 2009 3-month project grant from the Norwegian Non-Fiction Literary Fund [Det Faglitterære Fond].
- 2006 2-month research grant from the Institute for Comparative Research in Human Culture [Institutt for sammenlignende kulturforskning]
- 1998 Student grant from the Nordic Association of Linguists

Membership in professional organisations

Association of Linguistic Typology; Australian Linguistics Society; Linguistic Society of America; Societas Linguistica Europaea

Fieldwork

June-July 1998	Pileni island, Solomon Islands
June 2004	Honiara, Solomon Islands
Oct-Dec 2004	Reef Islands, Solomon Islands
Sept-Dec 2005	Reef Islands/Honiara, Solomon Islands
Sept-Nov 2015	Reef Islands, Solomon Islands