





# Dipankar Srirag

## PhD Candidate, UNSW Sydney

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## Education




Present Jun 2025	<b>University of New South Wales</b> Ph.D., Computer Science and Engineering • Advisor(s) : Dr. Aditya Joshi, Dr. Padmanesan Narasimhan. • Academic Award : UNSW TFS Scholarship. • Funded by NHMRC Ideas Grant.	Sydney, Australia
Sep 2024 Sep 2022	<b>University of New South Wales</b> M.S., Information Technology, WAM : 81.3.  • Advisor : Dr. Aditya Joshi. • Academic Award : Award of Excellence.  • Thesis : Training Dialect Adapters for Decoder Models Using Natural Conversations. 	Sydney, Australia
Aug 2022 Jul 2018	<b>Manipal Institute of Technology</b> B.Tech., Information Technology, GPA : 8.38.  • Minor : Data Analytics • Relevant Courses : Data Structures and Algorithms, Probability Theory, Linear Algebra, Vector Calculus, Machine Learning.	Manipal, India

## Experience

May 2025 May 2024	<b>University of New South Wales</b> Researcher/Research Officer • Built the BESSTIE benchmark, a novel dataset spanning sentiment and sarcasm classification across 3 English dialects. This work is funded by Google Research Scholar grant. • Designed and implemented scalable annotation pipelines to collect and validate 12,600 samples from Reddit and Google Places, covering diverse dialects for NLP evaluation. • Evaluated two open-weight LLMs (Gemma, Llama) for dialect robustness using sarcasm explanation generation, with statistically significant improvements using a pragmatic reasoning-based prompting strategy. • Audited GPT-based models for translation of school communication across 22 languages, using performance metrics such as BLEU, chrF, and ROUGE. • Mentored undergraduate students through the NSW Taste of Research program, guiding through literature reviews, controlled experimentation, and research writing. • Presented work at the UNSW AI Symposium 2024, showcasing practical contributions of dialect-aware LLM evaluations.	Sydney, Australia
Jun 2022 Jan 2022	<b>Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu</b> Analyst Intern • Automated invoice processing with 100% accuracy using BluePrism bots, improving operational efficiency for client-facing systems. • Trained in enterprise-grade automation tools such as Automation Anywhere and UiPath, delivering proof-of-concepts for internal testing.	Bengaluru, India

## Publications and Submissions

S=Submission, C=Conference, W=Workshop

- [S.1] **Nek Minit : Harnessing Pragmatic Metacognitive Prompting for Explainable Sarcasm Detection of Australian and Indian English.**   
Ishmanbur Singh\*, Dipankar Srirag\*, Aditya Joshi.  
[Under Review]
- [C.2] **BESSTIE : A Benchmark for Sentiment and Sarcasm Classification for Varieties of English.**   
Dipankar Srirag, Aditya Joshi, Jordan Painter, Diptesh Kanojia.  
*Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics : ACL 2025.* [ACL'25]
- [C.1] **Predicting the Target Word of Game-playing Conversations using a Low-Rank Dialect Adapter for Decoder Models.**   
Dipankar Srirag, Aditya Joshi, Jacob Eisenstein.  
*2025 Conference of the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics.* [NAACL'25]

[W.1] Evaluating Dialect Robustness of Language Models via Conversation Understanding. 

Dipankar Srirag, Nihar Ranjan Sahoo, Aditya Joshi

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*Second Workshop on Scaling Up Multilingual & Multi-Cultural Evaluation, COLING 2025.*

[SUMEvAL'25]

# Teaching

Neural Networks and Deep Learning, UNSW Sydney *Casual Academic*


May 2024 - Present

- Delivered tutorials and practical labs for 50+ graduate students in Neural Networks and Deep Learning, covering transformer models and training techniques.
- Provided project mentorship and evaluation, achieving 97% broad agreement in student feedback surveys.

## Presentations

NAACL 2025, Albuquerque, USA *Main Conference*

May 2025

Presented our paper titled, “Predicting the Target Word of Game-playing Conversations using a Low-Rank Dialect Adapter for Decoder Models.”

SUMEval Workshop at COLING 2025, Abu Dhabi, UAE *Workshop*

Jan 2025

Presented our paper titled, “Evaluating Dialect Robustness of Language Models via Conversation Understanding.”

AI Symposium 2025 at UNSW, Sydney, Australia *Symposium*

Nov 2024

Presented “BESSTIE : A Benchmark for Sentiment and Sarcasm Classification for Varieties of English”, to an audience of academia and industry attendees.

## Projects

## Comparative Analysis of Static vs. Context-aware Embeddings for Abstractive Summarisation

Sep 2023

Implemented a transformer model with encoder-decoder architecture and static embeddings, for abstractive dialogue summarisation. Highlighted the effectiveness of context-aware embeddings in dialogue summarisation, by fine-tuning BART-base, and FLAN-T5 models.

Pytorch Transformers HPC

## Academic Service

Program Committee Member C3NLP Workshop at NAACL 2025.

**Peer Reviewer** The Web Conference (WWW) 2025.

## References

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**Aditya Joshi**

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Diptesh Kanojia

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