

Clara Fridman, PhD

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

L3/Ln acquisition and processing, heritage languages, language learning, multilingual reading

EDUCATION

2024 **PhD Linguistics**

Bar Ilan University, Israel, GPA: 100

Dissertation Title: *The Lexicon of Child and Adult Heritage Language Speakers: Evidence from Heritage Russian, Hebrew and English*

2021 **MA Linguistics for Clinical Research**

Bar Ilan University, Israel, GPA: 99

Thesis Title: *Heritage Russian in Contact with Hebrew and English: A Comparative Study of Cross-linguistic Influence in the Domain of Morphosyntax*

2019 **BSc Computer Science**

BSc Cognitive Science

BA East European Languages and Literatures

Indiana University, USA, GPA: 93

PUBLICATIONS

- Submitted **Fridman, C.** & Meir, N (*Under Review*) Competition and coactivation in the trilingual lexical processing of heritage speakers: an eye-tracking study.
- 2024 **Fridman, C.** & Özsoy, O (*In Press*) Sentiments toward heritage languages & their speakers: an analysis of the last two decades of heritage linguistics. *Heritage Language Journal*.
- Fridman, C.**, Livni, A., Bar On, S., & Meir, N. (2024). Modeling lexical abilities of heritage language and L2 speakers of Hebrew and English in Israel and the United States: a network approach. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 15:1331801.
- 2023 **Fridman, C.**, Polinsky, M., & Meir, N (2023). Cross-linguistic influence meets diminished input: A comparative study of heritage Russian in contact with Hebrew and English. *Second Language Research*, 40(3), 675-708.
- Fridman C.**, & Meir, N (2023). Lexical production and innovation in child and adult Russian heritage speakers dominant in English and Hebrew. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* 26(5), 880–895.
- Fridman, C.**, & Meir, N (2023). A Portrait of Lexical Knowledge among Adult Hebrew Heritage Speakers Dominant in American English: Evidence from Naming and Narrative Tasks. *Languages*, 8(1), 36.

LANGUAGES

English (native), Russian (native), Hebrew (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), Italian (intermediate), Ukrainian (intermediate), French (beginner), Korean (beginner)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

R, SQL, Python, Microsoft Excel, Tableau, BigQuery, Looker, EyeLink

SELECTED INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- 2024 **Language Data Analyst** *AI21 Labs, Israel*
- Conducted psycholinguistic behavioral experiments on language models (LLMs) to assess user interaction and performance
 - Compiled guidelines for a team of 10 human evaluators to efficiently assess feature performance and provide quantitative and qualitative feedback
 - Planned, built, and oversaw human evaluation experiments, culminating in presentation of findings in company-wide forums
 - Utilized Python (pandas, matplotlib), BigQuery, and Looker to analyze experimental results, providing actionable insights for model enhancement, product strategy, and development decisions; taught teammates to query database through SQL, Looker
 - Collaborated cross-functionally with linguists, algorithm engineers, and product managers to generate scientifically-grounded training datasets
- 2021-2024 **Product Analyst** *Aidoc Medical, Israel*
- Designed and executed complex analyses using SQL and Tableau to demonstrate our product's value to hospitals worldwide
 - Built multi-level dashboards to measure engagement with our product at both the patient and physician levels
 - Led dashboard and documentation standardization initiative for the new Analytics department, establishing and communicating clear processes for project introduction, assessment, and implementation cross-organizationally
 - Automated value demonstration and monitoring processes by transforming frequent requests into interactive dashboards, hereby both lessening workload for the Analytics team and granting full agency to stakeholders
 - Provided data-based, actionable insights to the Product, Delivery, and Customer Success teams leading to new strategic decisions by multiple executives
- 2020-2021 **Quality Operations Manager** *Verbit.ai, Israel*
- Spearheaded an interdepartmental quality standardization project that tripled the number of advanced transcribers on our platform; established quality metrics for thousands of freelancers and transcripts
 - Built and conducted analyses using SQL, Excel, and Python from the ground up- methodology development to execution- including cost and quality analyses, product delivery analyses, competitor analyses, etc
 - Designed dashboards to monitor workforce caliber at scale; managed daily operational tasks and projects to ensure highest platform quality
 - Developed and ran week- and month-long training courses for groups of international transcribers; doubled the size of the Supervisor team

INVITED TALKS

- 2023 **Fridman, C**, 2023. *Blowing Milk Out of the Cow: The Heritage Lexicon in Action*. Bilingualism and Psycholinguistics Laboratory (Viorica Marian). Northwestern University. 29 November, 2023.
- Fridman, C**, 2023. *Lexical production and innovation in child and adult Russian heritage speakers dominant in English and Hebrew*. Linguistics Colloquium. Bar Ilan University. 14 March, 2023.
- 2023 **Fridman, C**, 2022. *The Heritage Language Lexicon: a PhD Proposal*. Guest Lecture Series. Aidoc Medical Ltd. 26 December, 2022.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 **Fridman, C & Meir, N**, 2024. *Trilingual Cross-Linguistic Co-Activation: Comparison of heritage Russian, L2-Hebrew and L3-English*. The International Congress of Linguists. 13 September, 2024. Poznan, Poland.
- Fridman, C & Meir, N**, 2024. *Trilingual Lexical Processing: Evidence from speakers of heritage Russian, L2-Hebrew and L3-English*. The 13th International Conference on Third Language Acquisition and Multilingualism. 28 August, 2024. Groningen, Netherlands.
- 2023 Özsoy, O & **Fridman, C**, 2023. *Sentiments toward Heritage Languages*. Linguistic Variability in Heritage Language Research. 29 September, 2023. Berlin, Germany.
- Fridman, C & Meir, N**, 2023. *Complex networks of language experience and lexical abilities of heritage and L2 speakers across the English-Hebrew language dyad*. Linguistic Variability in Heritage Language Research. 29 September, 2023. Berlin, Germany.
- Fridman, C & Meir, N**, 2023. *Ivrit keSfat Moreshet beArtzot HaBrit: Hashpaa shel Safa Hadominantit al Haleksikon (Hebrew as a Heritage Language in the United States: Influence of the Dominant Language on the Lexicon)*. Annual Conference by the Israeli Association for Literacy and Language. 5 July, 2023. Kfar Monash, Israel.
- Fridman, C & Meir, N**, 2023. *Lexical Production and Innovation in Child and Adult Russian Heritage Speakers with Two Typologically Distinct Dominant Languages*. International Symposium on Bilingualism: Diversity Now. 26 June, 2023. Sydney, Australia. [Online]
- Fridman, C & Meir, N**, 2023. *The Lexicon of Hebrew Heritage Speakers: Modeling a complex network*. Heritage Languages at the Crossroads: cultural contexts, individual differences and methodologies. 29 May, 2023. Istanbul, Turkey.
- Fridman, C & Meir, N**, 2023. *Through the Lens of the Lexicon: A Spotlight on Cross-Linguistic Influence in Narrative Production among English-Dominant Heritage Hebrew Speakers*. Bilingual Narrative Intervention- Israel Science Foundation Research Workshop. 21 February, 2023. Ramat Gan, Israel.
- 2022 **Fridman, C & Meir, N**, 2022. *Squishing the Cow: A Cross-Linguistic Study of Lexical Production Accuracy and Innovation in Child and Adult Heritage Russian Speakers*. Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium. 26 October, 2022. Edinburgh, Scotland. [Online]

Fridman, C & Meir, N, 2022. *Wringing Out the Cow: A Cross-Linguistic Study of Lexical Production Accuracy and Innovation in Child and Adult Heritage Russian Speakers.* 7th Barcelona Summer School on Bi/Multilingualism. 15 September, 2022. Barcelona, Spain.

Fridman, C & Meir, N, 2022. *Effects of Cross-Linguistic Influence and Input in Heritage Russian Speakers with Typologically Distinct Societal Languages.* International Symposium on Bilingual and L2 Processing in Adults and Children. 4 August, 2022. Tromso, Norway.

Fridman, C, Polinsky, M, & Meir, N, 2022. *Effects of Cross-Linguistic Influence and Input in Heritage Russian Speakers with Typologically Distinct Societal Languages.* NHLRC 4th International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages. 16 June, 2022. Los Angeles, United States. [Online]

2021 **Fridman, C & Meir, N, 2021.** *Heritage Russian in Contact with English and Hebrew: Effects of Cross-Linguistic Influence and Input in Morphosyntax.* New Approaches to Bi-/Multilingualism and Language Learning/Teaching. 20 November, 2021. Nicosia, Cyprus. [Online]

Fridman, C & Meir, N, 2021. *Morphosyntactic Features of Heritage Russian in Contact with Hebrew and English: A Comparative Study.* Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium. 25 October, 2021. Edinburgh, Scotland. [Online]

Fridman, C & Meir, N, 2021. *Rusit KeSfat Moreshet Bemaga Im Ivrit VeAnglit: Mekhar Hashvaati Al Hashpaot Ben-Lashoniot BaTkhum Ha Morphotakhbiri (Russian as a Heritage Language in Contact with Hebrew and English: A Comparative Study of Cross-Linguistic Influences in the Domain of Morphosyntax).* Annual Conference by the Israeli Association for Literacy and Language. 5 July, 2021. Israel. [Online]

Fridman, C & Meir, N, 2021. *A Comparative Study of Heritage Russian in Contact with Hebrew and English.* Conference on Multilingualism, 2021. 23 June, 2021. Konstanz, Germany. [Online]

PEER REVIEW

Frontiers in Psychology; Journal of Second Language Studies

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- 2025 Co-Organizer of the Workshop “Heritage Speakers Learning Languages: Looking Beyond the Societal Language” as part of the annual DGfS Conference *Mainz, Germany*
- Wrote a workshop proposal that was accepted for the conference (fewer than half of the submitted proposals were accepted); led international outreach initiative
 - Evaluated submitted abstracts in accordance with high scientific standards and handled all preparatory administrative tasks
- 2016-2019 Director of the Midwest Undergraduate Cognitive Science Conference *Bloomington, IN, USA*
- Chaired a committee of students to plan and promote a nationwide research conference
 - Strengthened outreach and marketing efforts across 30+ universities, leading to 100+ attendees participating in the 2019 event