

**Linguistic consultant** who applies a deep understanding of language and communication to real-world situations, particularly in the fields of technology and law. Professional writer since 1995, Master's degree in Linguistics in 2008. Lifelong passion for words and language.

## Professional Experience

**Adjunct Instructor in Linguistics**, Holy Names University, Oakland, California. Taught an introductory course in linguistics to undergraduates. 2012.

**Senior Technical Writer/Editor**, self-employed. Produce documentation for technology, primarily computer software, for both technical and non-technical audiences. 2005–present. (Sabbatical for graduate school, 2007–2008.)

**Senior Technical Writer/Editor**, Vodafone Americas. Wrote installation guides, system administration guides, and other technical documentation for a major cell phone company. Served as documentation lead, initiated and oversaw streamlining of documentation production process. 2002–2005.

## Education

**M.A., Linguistics**, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. The *Master's in Language and Communication* program provided a foundation in the technical aspects of Linguistics, including phonetics and phonology, syntax, and semantics. But the program's focus was on sociolinguistics, including discourse analysis, intercultural communication, and linguistics in the legal realm. My personal focus was language and law. I am the only person ever to complete this program in only two semesters.

**Certificate in Forensic Linguistics**, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY. This course focused on linguistic analysis of criminally oriented communications: stalker letters, telephoned threats, ransom notes, etc. The material the class analyzed came from actual criminal cases. One of the two instructors is a former FBI Special Agent, and its first linguistic profiler; the other instructor directs the Forensic Linguistics Project at Hofstra.

**B.A., Humanities (minor in Communication Arts)**, Holy Names College, Oakland, CA. *Magna cum laude*. The core of the major was English, Philosophy, and History; minor included Graphic Arts, Public Speaking, and other Communications courses.

**Multiple classes at the Linguistic Institute**, sponsored by the Linguistic Society of America and the University of California, Berkeley. Topics included gesture, historical linguistics, language contact.

**“Presenting Data and Information.”** One-day course taught by Edward Tufte, professor emeritus from Yale University and pioneer in the field of information design. Addressed the most effective ways of getting information across to an audience visually.

## Presentations

- “Forensic Linguistics: Law and the Science of Language.” An introduction for lawyers to the field of linguistics and how specialized knowledge about language can be applied in the justice system. Explained several subdisciplines of linguistics, including phonetics and semantics, and gave examples of how they can be used in the justice system. Continuing Legal Education credit class. Alameda County Law Library, July 2012; San Francisco Bar Association, October 2012.
- “Clarity in Death Penalty Jury Instructions.” Presented a paper about writing more effective jury instructions to the International Association of Forensic Linguists, 2009. I see this as a technical communication issue with literally life-and-death consequences. The California jury instructions were written by experts in the law: judges, lawyers, and law professors. Research has shown that the instructions are very poorly understood by people who do not have such a background in legal

language. A handout for the presentation included my much clearer rewriting of the instruction for determining if the death penalty is appropriate.

- “Forensic Linguistics: Real-life *CSI* with Word People.” Wrote and delivered (multiple times) a presentation explaining the basic concepts of forensic linguistic analysis to non-specialist audiences, using evidence from real-life crimes as examples. The presentation includes lots of audience participation, and is always well received.
- “Managing Multiple Information Channels: Strategies for Effective Presentations.” An explanation, with examples and audience participation, of the strengths and weaknesses of the different communication tools available to speakers. Given to both professional and grad student audiences. Georgetown University Linguistics Dept., 2008. Society for Technical Communication: Berkeley chapter July 2011, Silicon Valley chapter September 2011.

## Professional Activities

Member, Linguistic Society of America.

Member, International Association of Forensic Linguists.

Member, American Dialect Society.

Senior member and Associate Fellow, Society for Technical Communication.

- President, Berkeley chapter, for three one-year terms.
- Chairman, Publications Committee, regional professional conference.
- Judge, International Technical Art Competition (4 years), and local technical communication competitions.

## Recognition

- Awarded honorary rank of Associate Fellow of the Society for Technical Communication, 2011. Fellows and Associate Fellows are characterized as “the stars of our profession” by STC. Total number of STC Associate Fellows cannot exceed 3% of Society membership at any one time.
- Recipient of Distinguished Chapter Service Award from the Society for Technical Communication, Berkeley chapter, 2008. This award is limited to approximately one percent of chapter membership annually, and must be approved at the Society level.
- Inducted into Kappa Gamma Pi honor and service society for graduates of Catholic colleges, 1993. Nominations are limited to 10% of a school’s graduating class.
- Member, OAK Society (Omicron Alpha Kappa), the President’s honor society, at Holy Names College (now University), 1991 and continuing until graduation.
- Council of Leaders, President’s Level, Pacific Bell Directory, 1990. This honor was given to no more than 1% of PBD employees per year for outstanding contributions to the company.