

# Linguistics Demoz Prize Winner 2023

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**Joy Fu:**

- **How did you first become interested in linguistics?**

*I have been fascinated by accents and language variations since elementary school. In middle school, I learned that this “hobby” of mine was actually systematically studied by sociolinguists. I started to read extensively about linguistics and decided to major in it in high school.*

- **How have you been involved in the Linguistics Department outside of your coursework?**

*I have worked for Prof. D’Onofrio’s Chicagoland Language Project and am a member of Prof. Yoshida’s Syntax Club. This year, I helped organize NACLO at Northwestern.*

- **Can you briefly describe any research projects in linguistics that you’ve been involved with?**

*I did my first research project in linguistics in high school, where I studied the use of the Shanghai dialect in Shanghai Opera. At Northwestern, under the guidance of Prof. Yoshida, I have been investigating grammatical illusions in Mandarin and English locative constructions. I am excited to continue my work on the Chicagoland Language Project with Prof. D’Onofrio this summer.*

- **How do you see your linguistics major fitting into your career plans after graduation?**

*I’m planning on pursuing a career in law after graduation. My Linguistics coursework has prepared me for both qualitative and quantitative legal research. Through sociolinguistics, I have also had the chance to study social injustices and disparities from a unique perspective.*

- **What advice would you have for students considering a linguistics major?**

*Talk to as many linguistics majors and professors as possible! Take any linguistics class that interests you, as linguistics offers a wide range of branches to explore. There are countless ways to specialize within the field, so follow your interests and passions!*

**Thank you for your continuing support to the Linguistics Department!**

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