Bjarki Ármannsson

PhD candidate in Icelandic Linguistics, University of Iceland
Researcher, The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies
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Education:

PhD in Icelandic Linguistics, University of Iceland, 2024-present.
Dissertation working title: *Neural Modeling of Icelandic Grammar.*
Advisor: Einar Freyr Sigurðsson.
PhD committee: Iris Edda Nowenstein, Hafsteinn Einarsson and R. Thomas McCoy.

M.A. in Language Technology, Uppsala University, 2019-2021, graduated with distinction.
Thesis title: *Grapheme-to-phoneme transcription of English words in Icelandic text.*
Advisor: Daniel Dakota.

B.A. in Icelandic, University of Iceland, 2012-2016, graduated first class.
Thesis title: *Land, þjóð og tölva: Hvað þarf til bragðs að taka til að tryggja notagildi íslensku á stafrænni öld?* [On the current state of language technology infrastructure for Icelandic.]
Advisor: Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson.

Employment:

Researcher, The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies, 2024-present.
Worked on projects including:
*Skilvirk, létt og lipur máll*íkön fyrir íslensku [Developing small, efficient language models for Icelandic], supported by The Strategic Research and Development Programme for Language Technology, 2025-present.
An English→Icelandic machine translation system, submitted to the Conference on Machine Translation (WMT) General Translation Task where it finished as the highest-scoring open-source system, 2024.
Icelandic Linguistic Benchmark for Large Language Models, part of the Language Technology Programme for Icelandic, 2024.
The Icelandic Standardization Benchmark Set: Spelling and Punctuation, part of the Language Technology Programme for Icelandic, 2024.

Language Technology specialist, Grammatek, 2020-2023.
Worked on projects including:
Icelandic Pronunciation Dictionary for Language Technology, part of the Language Technology Programme for Icelandic, 2020-2022.
Spoken Dialogue Framework for Icelandic, collaboration with Tiro and Reykjavík University, supported by the Icelandic Centre for Research, 2022-2023.

Peer-reviewed publications:

Bjarki Ármannsson, Iris Edda Nowenstein and Einar Freyr Sigurðsson. 2026. Linguistics Should Not Stop Worrying About Languages Other Than English: A Commentary on Futrell and Mahowald (2025). Commentary to appear in *Behavioural and Brain Sciences.*

Bjarki Ármannsson, Finnur Ágúst Ingimundarson, Iris Edda Nowenstein and Einar Freyr Sigurðsson. 2026. Icelandic Gender Agreement Shows LLMs' Failure to Effectively Generalize. *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics 32.1: Proceedings of PLC 49 (PWPL 32.1)*.

Finnur Ágúst Ingimundarson, Steinunn Rut Friðriksdóttir, **Bjarki Ármannsson**, Iris Edda Nowenstein and Steinþór Steingrímsson. 2026. Who Benchmarks the Benchmarks? A Case Study of LLM Evaluation in Icelandic. In *Proceedings of the Fifteenth Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC 2026).*

Bjarki Ármannsson, Finnur Ágúst Ingimundarson and Einar Freyr Sigurðsson. 2025. An Icelandic Linguistic Benchmark for Large Language Models. *Proceedings of the 25th Nordic Conference on Computational Linguistics (NoDaLiDa)*.

Bjarki Ármannsson, Hinrik Hafsteinsson, Jóhannes B. Sigtryggsson, Atli Jasonarson, Einar Freyr Sigurðsson and Steinþór Steingrímsson. 2025. Playing by the Rules: A Benchmark Set for Standardized Icelandic Orthography. *Proceedings of the 25th Nordic Conference on Computational Linguistics (NoDaLiDa).*

Steinþór Steingrímsson and **Bjarki Ármannsson**. 2025. In Pursuit of the Trivial. *Proceedings of the 9th Digital Humanities in the Nordic and Baltic Countries conference.*

Bjarki Ármannsson, Hinrik Hafsteinsson, Atli Jasonarson and Steinþór Steingrímsson. 2024. Killing Two Flies with One Stone: An Attempt to Break LLMs Using English→Icelandic Idioms and Proper Names. *Proceedings of the Ninth Conference on Machine Translation (WMT).*

Atli Jasonarson, Hinrik Hafsteinsson, **Bjarki Ármannsson** and Steinþór Steingrímsson. 2024. Cogs in a Machine, Doing What They're Meant to Do: The AMI Submission to the WMT24 General Translation Task. *Proceedings of the Ninth Conference on Machine Translation (WMT).*

Language resources:

Bjarki Ármannsson, Finnur Ágúst Ingimundarson and Einar Freyr Sigurðsson. 2024. Icelandic Linguistic Benchmark for LLMs 24.10, CLARIN-IS.

Bjarki Ármannsson, et al. 2024. Icelandic Standardization Benchmark Set: Spelling and Punctuation 24.10, CLARIN-IS.

Anna Björk Nikulásdóttir, **Bjarki Ármannsson** and Bryndís Bergþórsdóttir. 2022. Icelandic Pronunciation Dictionary for Language Technology 22.01, CLARIN-IS.

Non peer-reviewed publications:

Bjarki Ármannsson. 2026. *Málfræðipróf fyrir tölvur*. [Grammar tests for computers.] Article for the webzine Mannamál.

Bjarki Ármannsson. 2025. *„Góð bílstjóri" og „bestunárangur": Það sem gervigreindin lærir og lærir ekki í íslensku.* [What AI does and does not learn in Icelandic.] Article for the webzine Mannamál.

Teaching:

University of Iceland, spring 2026.
Course: *Large Language Models and AI in an Icelandic Context.*
Role: Instructor.
Duties: Constructed and delivered lectures and lab assignments on *LLMs and small language communities*, *Assessing LLM capabilities*, *AI, linguistics and language acquisition* and *Towards better models for Icelandic*.

Uppsala University, fall 2020-spring 2021.
Courses: *Programming for Language Technologists* and *Natural Language Processing.*
Role: Teaching assistant.
Duties: Assisting students with lab assignments, grading homework.

Folkuniversitetet Stockholm, fall 2019-spring 2020.

Course: *Icelandic for Swedish speakers.*
Role: Course planner and instructor.
Duties: Planning course, teaching, assisigning and grading homework.

The Tin Can Factory, Reykjavík, fall 2016-spring 2019.
Courses: *Icelandic for foreigners* (Levels 1-6).
Role: Course planner and instructor.
Duties: Planning course, teaching, assigning and grading homework.

Talks, panels and media:

Tölvunum kennt að tala. [Teaching Computers Language.] Presentation at the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies' annual general meeting, April 2026.

Gervigreind, málvísindi og máltaka barna. [AI, Linguistics and Language Acquisition.] Lunchtime talk at the Icelandic software company Overcast, March 2026.

Challenges and opportunities in underrepresented language AI. Panelist at TrustLLM's second annual consortium, June 2025.

Íslenska og gervigreind. [AI and the Icelandic language.] Youtube interview with Icelandic media outlet Samstöðin about LLMs and Icelandic in the digital age, May 2025.

Íslenskar „maðkabœkur" til sölu á Amazon. ["Maggot books" in Icelandic for sale on Amazon.] Interviewed by Icelandic national broadcaster RÚV about AI-generated books in Icelandic online, May 2025.

Mállíkön og myndun orða. [Language Models and Compounding in Icelandic.] Presentation for the Linguistic Society of Iceland, April 2025.

For LLMs, Even an Abundance of the Stimulus is Not Enough: A View from Icelandic. Presentation at the 49th annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC), April 2025.

Grants:

Doctoral grant no. 2510917-052 from the Icelandic Research Fund (Rannís), 2025-present.
Project title: *Language Acquisition and Performance of Large Language Models in Icelandic.*
Role: Principal Researcher

Grant no. 2505-0113 from the Strategic Research and Development Program in Language Technology, 2025-present.
Project title: *Skilvirk, létt og lipur máll*íkön *fyrir íslensku* [Developing small, efficient language models for Icelandic].
Role: Project co-supervisor.

Grant from the University of Iceland Research Fund, 2025.
Project title: *Mennsk málkunnátta og setningafræðileg formgerð í gervigreind*. [Human language acquisition and syntactic structure in AI.]
Role: Researcher.

Other:

Will attend the CreteLing 2026 summer school in linguistics, Rethymno, July 2026.

Head of the Society for Icelandic Studies, 2026-present.

Assisted with translating and proofreading Sæunn Gísladóttir's Icelandic translation of Caroline Criado Perez's *Invisible women*, published by Icelandic publishing house Salka in 2021.

Volunteer student representative for a course on Speech Technology at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, 2020.

Language proficiency:

Icelandic: Native.
English: Fluent.
Swedish: Limited fluency.
German/Spanish: Basic knowledge.