

**Refika Turgut, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Literacy and Language Education  
College of Education, Human Performance, and Health  
University of South Carolina Upstate

Phone: (803)370-4373

Email: [rturgut@uscupstate.edu](mailto:rturgut@uscupstate.edu)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/refika-turgut-b0b73b222/>

ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Refika-Turgut-2>

**EDUCATION**

- 2017                    **University of Nevada, Las Vegas, PhD**  
Curriculum and Instruction- Concentration: TESOL  
Dissertation: "Case studies of Teach for America teachers' teacher identity development in relation to English language learners"  
Advisor: Dr. Steven G. McCafferty
- 2007                    **University of Southern Queensland, MA**  
Education, Teaching English Speakers of Other Languages
- 1999                    **Eastern Mediterranean University, BA**  
Education, English Language Teaching

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2019-Present            **Assistant Professor**, Literacy and Language Education,  
University of South Carolina, Upstate
- 2016- 2019            **Professional Development Strategist/ESL Teacher**  
Innovations International Charter School of Nevada
- 2015- 2016            **Graduate Research Assistant**  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2011-2015            **Graduate Teaching Assistant**  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2007-2011            **Senior Instructor and Course Coordinator**  
Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus
- 2000- 2007            **Instructor**  
Foreign Languages and English Preparatory School  
Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus
- 1999-2000            **Learning Advisor**  
Foreign Languages and English Preparatory School  
Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus

## GRANTS RECEIVED/APPLIED

- 2024** (Under review) **National Science Foundation- *CSforALL***  
Deniz, H. (PI), **Turgut, R.**, (PI) Yesilyurt, E., (PI) and Kaya, E. (PI).  
EducateAI DCL: Cultivating AI Literacy through Linguistically Inclusive  
Integrated Elementary Curriculum via Educational Robotics  
Total project budget: ~\$1M
- 2024** (Under review) **National Science Foundation- *Data Science Corps***  
Deniz, H. (PI), **Turgut, R.**, (PI) Yesilyurt, E., (PI) and Kaya, E. (PI).  
DSC: DS for ALL: Integrating Data Science with Science Instruction at  
Linguistically Diverse Middle School Classrooms  
Total project budget: ~\$1.2M
- 2024** (Under review) **U.S. Department of Education, Education Innovation  
and Research (EIR)- *Early-phase***  
Deniz, H. (PI), **Turgut, R.**, (PI) Yesilyurt, E., (PI) and Kaya, E. (PI). AI  
for All: Integrating Artificial Intelligence with Science, Mathematics and  
Language Arts Instruction at Linguistically Diverse Upper Elementary  
Classrooms. Total project budget: ~\$3M.
- 2023** **Unfunded- U.S. Department of Education, Education Innovation and  
Research (EIR)**  
Deniz, H. (PI), **Turgut, R.**, (PI) Yesilyurt, E., (PI) and Kaya, E. (PI). AI  
for All: Integrating Artificial Intelligence with Science, Mathematics and  
Language Arts Instruction at Linguistically Diverse Upper Elementary  
Classrooms. Total project budget: ~\$3M.
- 2023** **Unfunded- National Science Foundation (NSF)**  
Deniz, H. (PI), **Turgut, R.**, (PI) Yesilyurt, E., (PI) and Kaya, E. (PI). AI is  
Elementary: Advancing AI Literacy through Linguistically Inclusive  
Integrated Elementary Engineering Curriculum via Educational Robotics.  
Total project budget: \$2M
- 2022** **Unfunded- National Science Foundation (NSF)**  
Deniz, H. (PI), **Turgut, R.**, (PI) Yesilyurt, E., (PI) and Kaya, E. (PI). AI  
for All: Integrating Artificial Intelligence with Science, Mathematics and  
Language Arts Instruction at Linguistically Diverse Upper Elementary  
Classrooms. Total project budget: \$2,580,363
- 2021** **Funded- National Science Foundation (NSF)**  
Deniz, H. (PI), **Turgut, R.**, (PI) Yesilyurt, E., (PI) and Kaya, E. (PI).  
Collaborative Research: Developing an Integrated Computer Science  
Curriculum for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Classrooms at  
Grades 3-5. (\$241,897). Total project budget: \$1M

## PUBLICATIONS

**Turgut, R. & Adibelli, E. (2022).** Exploring linguistically responsive teaching with preservice teachers in a course on teaching English learners. *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, 1-18. DOI: 10.1080/13603116.2022.2121432

**Turgut, R. & Huerta, M. (2022).** Examining secondary content-area teachers' identity positionings as teachers of English learners. *Journal of Research in Education*, 31(1), 92-123.

Nussbaum, M.E., Dove, I. J., Slife, N., Kardash, C. M., **Turgut, R.**, & Vallett, D. (2019). Using critical questions to evaluate written and oral arguments in an undergraduate general education seminar: a quasi-experimental study. *Reading and Writing*, 32(6), 1531-1552.

**Turgut, R.**, Adibelli, E., & Huerta, M. (2016) Changes in pre-service teachers' perceptions of preparedness to teach English language learners (ELLs) in mainstream classrooms. *Journal of Ethnographic and Qualitative Research*, 10(4), 291-305.

### Under review or In-progress

**Turgut, R. & Mueller, R. (in progress).** Exploring the impact of a graduate-level course on teachers' understanding and implementation of translanguaging pedagogy with emergent multilingual learners.

## CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS

### Refereed Conference Proceedings

Yesilyurt, E., **Turgut, R.**, Kaya, E., Sahin, B., Adibelli-Sahin, E., & Deniz, H. (2023). Multilingual Elementary School Students' Computer Science and STEM Learning through Robotics. In Proceedings of the 2023 ACM Conference on International Computing Education Research V.2 (ICER '23 V2), August 07–11, 2023, Chicago, IL, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3568812.3603480>

### Refereed Conference Presentations

**Turgut, R.**, Yesilyurt, E., Kaya, E., Adibelli-Sahin, E., & Deniz, H. (March 2024). *Empowering emergent multilingual learners in computer science education through a linguistically inclusive elementary curriculum*. Paper presented at the annual Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International (SITE) conference, Las Vegas, NV.

**Turgut, R. & Mueller, R. (February 2024).** *Exploring the impact of a graduate-level course on teachers' understanding and implementation of translanguaging pedagogy with emergent multilingual learners*. Paper presented at the annual Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA) conference, Clearwater, FL.

Yesilyurt, E., **Turgut, R.**, Kaya, E., Adibelli-Sahin, E., & Deniz, H. (February 2024). *Investigating in-service elementary teachers' computer science teaching efficacy*. Paper presented at the annual Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA) conference, Clearwater, FL.

- Adibelli-Sahin, E., Deniz, H., Yesilyurt, E., **Turgut, R.**, Sahin, B., & Kaya, E., (July 2023). *Integrated CS via educational robotics*. Poster presented at the annual Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) conference, virtual.
- Turgut, R.** & Mueller, R. (April 2023). *Mainstream teachers' perceptions of leveraging multilingual learners' home languages and translanguaging pedagogy*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference, Chicago, IL.
- Turgut, R.** & Yesilyurt, E. (April 2023). *From English-only to multilingualism: Elementary teachers' practices of translanguaging in mainstream classrooms*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference, Chicago, IL.
- Kaya, E., Yesilyurt, E., **Turgut, R.**, Sahin, B., Adibelli-Sahin, E., & Deniz, H. (March 2023). *Integrating computer science into elementary mathematics education for linguistically diverse classrooms*. Paper presented at the annual Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education (SITE) conference, New Orleans, LO.
- Turgut, R.**, Yesilyurt, E., Kaya, E., Adibelli-Sahin, E., Sahin, B., & Deniz, H. (May 2022). *Development of integrated computer science curriculum for linguistically diverse elementary classrooms*. Poster presented at the Conference on Research in Equity and Sustained Participation in Engineering, Computing, and Technology (RESPECT), Philadelphia, PA.
- Yesilyurt, E., **Turgut, R.**, Kaya, E., Adibelli-Sahin, E., Sahin, B., & Deniz, H. (April 2022). *Teaching elementary computer science with physical computing for linguistically diverse classrooms*. Paper presented at the annual Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International (SITE) conference, virtual.
- Turgut, R.** & Mueller, R. (February 2022). *Translanguaging in mainstream classrooms: Exploring mainstream teachers' perceptions of translanguaging pedagogy*. Paper presented at the Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA) conference. Clearwater, FL.
- Turgut, R.** & Mueller, R. (April 2021). *"I used to be terrified of teaching MLs": Exploring changes in teachers' understandings about multilingual learners*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference, virtual.
- Turgut, R.** (April 2020). *Prospective bilingual Latina/o elementary teachers' sense of Readiness to work with multilingual learners in mainstream*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference, virtual.
- Turgut, R.** (April 2020). *Secondary mathematics teachers' positionings in relation to working with English learners*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference, virtual.
- Turgut, R.** (February 2020). *Case study of content-area teachers' positional identities as teachers of English learners*. Paper presented at the annual Ethnographic & Qualitative Research Conference (EQRC) conference, Las Vegas, NV.

- Nussbaum, M., Slife, N., **Turgut, R.**, Kardash, C & Dove, I. (April 2018). *Using critical questions to evaluate written and oral arguments in an undergraduate general education seminar: A quasi-experimental study*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference. New York, NY.
- Turgut, R.** & McCafferty, S. (February 2018). A multiple case study of novice teachers' teacher identity development as teachers of English language learners. Paper presented at Conference on Academic Research in Education (CARE). Las Vegas, NV.
- Turgut, R.** & Adibelli, E. (April 2017). *Investigating how linguistically responsive teaching looks like in a real course setting with preservice teachers*. In Dray, B. (Chair) Preparing all teachers to become language teachers: A National Perspective. Symposium conducted at American Educational Research Association (AERA). San Antonio, TX
- Yesilyurt, E., **Turgut, R.**, Kaya, E. & Deniz, H. (April 2017). *General education preservice teachers' attitudes and beliefs/knowledge regarding second language acquisition and English language learners*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference. San Antonio, TX.
- Turgut, R.** & McCafferty, S. (April 2017). *Case studies of Teach for America teachers' ELL teacher identity development*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA). San Antonio, TX.
- Adibelli, E., **Turgut, R.** & Huerta, M. (April 2017). Hispanic preservice teachers' perceptions of preparedness to teach English language learners. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference. San Antonio, TX.
- Turgut, R.** & McCafferty, S. (March 2017). *Alternatively certified teachers' teacher identity development*. Paper presented at the annual American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL) conference. Portland, OR.
- Nussbaum, M., Slife, N., **Turgut, R.**, Kardash, C & Dove, I. (August 2016) *Using argumentation Vee Diagrams based on Walton's critical questions for consequences in an undergraduate seminar*. Paper presented at the EARLI SIG 26 conference. Ghent, Belgium.
- Turgut, R.**, Adibelli, E., & Huerta, M. (April 2016). *Hispanic and White preservice teachers' perceptions of preparedness to teach English language learners*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference. Washington DC.
- Adibelli, E., Huerta, M. & **Turgut, R.** (April 2016). *Teacher characteristics and attitudes, beliefs and knowledge regarding second language acquisition and English language learners*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference. Washington DC.

- Turgut, R.,** Adibelli, E., & Huerta, M. (April 2016). *"It's not my job": How pre-service teachers re(position) themselves and English language learners*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference. Washington DC.
- Deniz, H. & **Turgut, R.** (April 2016). *A qualitative study of the impact of an ESOL course on preservice teachers' identity construction*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference. Washington DC.
- Turgut, R.,** Dema, A. & McCafferty, S (October 2015). *Rethinking Muslim women: perspectives and experiences of Muslim women living in the U.S.* Paper presented at the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Turgut, R.** & Adibelli, E. (April 2015). *Changing preservice teachers' knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs regarding second language acquisition and English language learners*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference, Chicago, IL.
- Dema, A., **Turgut, R.** & Zhang, S. (April 2015). *Exploring teacher identity development of international doctoral students in the U.S.: A Sociocultural Theoretical Perspective*. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference, Chicago, IL.
- Adibelli, E. & **Turgut, R.** (April 2015). Relationships among knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes regarding second language acquisition and English language learners. Paper presented at the annual American Educational Research Association, (AERA) conference, Chicago, IL.
- Turgut, R.,** Dema, A. & McCafferty, S (February 2015). *Case studies: Wearing the hijab: forming identities as a Muslim woman in an American secondary school*. Paper presented at the Ethnographic & Qualitative Research Conference (EQRC), Las Vegas, NV.
- Turgut, R.** & Adibelli, E. (February 2015). *A quantitative study of how TESL coursework impacts teacher candidates' knowledge, beliefs and attitudes regarding ELLs*. Paper presented at the annual American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences (AABSS) conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- Adibelli, E. & Turgut, R. (February 2015). Preservice teachers' perceptions of preparedness to teach English language learners in mainstream classrooms, Paper presented at Ethnographic & Qualitative Research Conference (EQRC) conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- Turgut, R.** (November 2014). Preparing preservice teachers for multicultural and multilingual classrooms. Poster presented at the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) conference, Tucson, AZ.
- Dema, A., **Turgut, R.** & Zhang, S. (August 2014). *A case study of an international doctoral student's teaching development*, Paper presented at the Association of Teacher Educators, (ATE) conference, Niagara Falls, NY.

Dema, A., **Turgut, R.** & Zhang, S. (February 2014). *Identity development of non-native English speaking graduate assistants at a U.S. university: A Multiple-case study*. Poster presented at the Ethnographic & Qualitative Research (EQRC) conference, Las Vegas, NV.

## **Workshops, Professional Development, and Community Presentations**

**Turgut, R.** (June 2024). *Linguistically inclusive computer science for culturally and linguistically diverse students at Grades 3-5*. Professional development workshop delivered to Spartanburg elementary teachers as part of research project “Developing an Integrated Computer Science Curriculum for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Classrooms at Grades 3-5” at the University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg SC.

Kaya, E., Yesilyurt, E., **Turgut, R.**, Sahin, B., Adibelli-Sahin, E., Kara-Zorluoglu, D., & Deniz, H. (March 2024). *Teaching Elementary Science and Mathematics Integrated with Computer Science at Linguistically Diverse Classrooms via Educational Robotics*. Workshop conducted at the Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education (SITE) International Conference. Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE), Las Vegas, NV.

Kaya, E., Yesilyurt, E., **Turgut, R.**, Sahin, B., Adibelli-Sahin, E., & Deniz, H. (April 2023). *Integrating Science with Computer Science for Linguistically Diverse Classrooms at Upper Elementary Grades via Educational Robotics*. Workshop conducted at the National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST) Conference. Chicago, IL.

**Turgut, R.** (July 2023). *Linguistically inclusive computer science for culturally and linguistically diverse students at Grades 3-5*. Professional development workshop delivered to Ogden elementary teachers as part of research project “Developing an Integrated Computer Science Curriculum for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Classrooms at Grades 3-5” at Weber State University, Ogden UT.

**Turgut, R.** (June 2023). *Linguistically inclusive computer science for culturally and linguistically diverse students at Grades 3-5*. Professional development workshop delivered to Spartanburg elementary teachers as part of research project “Developing an Integrated Computer Science Curriculum for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Classrooms at Grades 3-5” at the University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg SC.

**Turgut, R.** (February 2023). *Implementing WIDA standards and WIDA Can-do Charts into classroom instruction for multilingual learners*. Professional development workshop for Spartanburg Day School, Spartanburg, SC.

**Turgut, R.** (October 2022). Multilingual learners and multilingual education. Guest Lecturer. Wofford College, Spartanburg SC.

**Turgut, R.** (August 2022). *Linguistically inclusive computer science for culturally and linguistically diverse students at Grades 3-5*. Professional development workshop delivered to Las Vegas elementary teachers as part of research project “Developing an Integrated Computer Science Curriculum for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Classrooms at Grades 3-5” at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, NV.

**Turgut, R.** (May 2018). *Encouraging Literacy at Home, Parents as Learning Partners*. Professional development workshop for Innovations International Charter School of Nevada (IICSN), Las Vegas, NV.

**Turgut, R.** (March 2017). *Literacy with multilingual learners Students*. Professional development workshop for Innovations International Charter School of Nevada (IICSN), Las Vegas, NV.

**Turgut, R.** (March 2017). *Strategies for Helping Our Children Succeed, Parents as Learning Partners*. Professional development workshop for Innovations International Charter School of Nevada (IICSN), Las Vegas, NV.

## ***TEACHING ACTIVITIES***

### **Graduate level courses taught**

ENSL U748	Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Education, USC Upstate
ENSL U708	Introduction to Linguistics, USC Upstate
ENSL U760	ESOL Practicum, USC Upstate
ENSL U758	Assessment of Second Language Learners, USC Upstate
EDPS U732	Enhancing Learning Environments for Diverse Cultures, USC Upstate
ENSL U728	Literacy Instruction for K-12 Second Language Learners, USC Upstate
ENSL U718	Techniques for Teaching English to K-12 Second Language Learners, USC Upstate

### **Undergraduate level courses taught**

EDRE U418	Literacy in the Middle and Secondary School, USC Upstate
EDRE U315.	Foundations of Reading, USC Upstate
EDSC U398	Teaching English Language Learners, USC Upstate
EDFO U342	Teaching Multilingual Learners, USC Upstate
TESL 471	Language Acquisition, Development and Learning, UNLV
ENGL 171	Elementary English, Eastern Mediterranean University
ENGL 271	Intermediate English, Eastern Mediterranean University
ENGL 191	Communication in English I, Eastern Mediterranean University

### **Guest Lecturing and Collaborative Teaching**

*Social Studies Methods Course (2021-2024)*: Invited each semester as a guest lecturer to present research-based multilingual instructional practices. Collaborated on strategies for teaching emergent multilingual learners (EMLs) and facilitated activities to challenge misconceptions about EMLs.

*Special Education Course (2023-2024)*: Guest lectured in the "Nature and Needs of Learners with Visual Impairments" class, focusing on instructional practices tailored for EMLs with visual impairments. Shared practical scaffolding strategies, such as using descriptive language and tactile learning aids.



## **Course Development Activities**

*Teaching Multilingual Learners (EDFO U342-01W)*: Developed a new undergraduate course to prepare future teachers for linguistically inclusive instruction. Created all course materials, including the syllabus, module activities, assignments, and lecture videos.

*Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Education (ENSL U748-01W)*: Designed a graduate-level course from scratch to provide K-12 teachers with strategies to support culturally and linguistically diverse learners in monolingual classrooms.

*Teaching English Language Learners (EDSC U398-03W)*: Developed a new undergraduate course to equip future teachers with the skills needed for culturally and linguistically appropriate instruction and assessment of English learners in linguistically diverse classrooms. The course covered current theories, research-based practices, and strategies for fostering an inclusive learning environment for linguistically diverse learners.

## **SERVICE**

### **University Service**

Committee member, Academic Affairs Committee (2024-Present)  
Co-chair, Graduate Committee (2023-2024)  
Committee member, Graduate Committee (2021-2024)

### **Unit Service**

Co-chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, CoEHPH, (2023-Present)  
Committee member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, CoEHPH, (2021-Present)  
Committee member, Curriculum Committee, CoEHPH, (2019-2021)

### **Community Service**

Provision of Educational Resources to Local Elementary Schools (2022-2024)  
NSF Grant Project Website Development (2023-2024)  
Board member, Carolina Literacy Project, Greenville, SC (2023-Present)  
Member, El Centro Advisory Council (2023-Present)  
School improvement council member, Arcadia Elementary School, Spartanburg, SC (2019-2021)

### **Professional Service**

Grant-Funded Professional Development Workshops (2021- Present)  
Reviewer, Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA) annual conference (2024)  
Reviewer, American Educational Research Association (AERA) annual conference (2020)  
Division K - Teaching and Teacher Education

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

2010	<b>City &amp; Guilds of London Institute</b> Teacher training on classroom-based skills development methodology
2009	<b>Pilgrims English Language Courses</b> Testing and assessment of English as a second/foreign language learners

- 2009 **Oxford University, Department for Continuing Education**  
Principles and practices in teaching English to adults,
- 2009 **Gordion Academia**  
Current Trends: Theory and practice in English language teaching
- 2001 **University of Cambridge**  
Certificate in Cambridge Examinations in English for language teachers (Level two), (CEELT II)
- 2000 **University of Cambridge**  
Certificate in English language teaching to adults, (CELTA)

## **AWARDS**

- 2016 Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)  
Second Place Award in Research Presentation, \$125  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2015 Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)  
First Place Award in Research Presentation, \$200  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2016 Teaching Professional Development Scholarship, \$500  
Department of Teaching and Learning, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 1999 Academic Success Scholarship, Ministry of Education and Culture,  
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, \$8000