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# AFSANEH FAZLY

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### PERSONAL INFO .....

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Toronto, Canada                              webpage:     <http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~afsaneh>

### RESEARCH INTERESTS .....

- **Fields:** Artificial Intelligence, Human-Computer Interaction, Computational Linguistics, Computational Vision, Cognitive Science, Statistical Learning, Computational Lexicography, Corpus Linguistics.
- **Research Focus:** Lexical Semantics and the Syntax-Semantics Interface, Statistical Corpus Analysis, Computational Models of Figurative Language, Computational Models of Child Language Acquisition, Automatic Object Annotation.

### EDUCATION .....

Ph.D. 2007    Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada  
**Advisor:** Suzanne Stevenson  
**Thesis Title:** *Automatic Acquisition of Lexical Knowledge about Multiword Predicates*

M.Sc. 2002    Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada  
**Advisor:** Graeme Hirst  
**Thesis:** *The Use of Syntax in Word Completion Utilities*

M.Sc. 1998    Department of Computer Engineering, Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran  
**Advisor:** Mehrdad Fahimi  
**Thesis:** *Representation of Persian Sentences Using Conceptual Graphs*

B.Sc. 1996    Department of Computer Engineering, Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran  
**Advisor:** Mehrdad Fahimi  
**Thesis:** *Design and Implementation of a Lexicon for Persian*

### AWARDS .....

- The Cognitive Science 2008 Prize for the best paper on Language Modeling (\$1000US honorarium), 2008.
- The Ray Reiter Graduate Award (\$500CAD), Dept. of Computer Science, University of Toronto, 2006.
- The Government of Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS; \$15,000CAD), 2005.
- The Government of Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology (OGSST; \$15,000), 2004.
- Scholarship from the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing (\$1,200CAD), 2002.
- University of Toronto Fellowship, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003.

PUBLICATIONS .....

REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- M. Jamieson, **A. Fazly**, S. Stevenson, S. Dickinson, and S. Wachsmuth (forthcoming). “Using Language to Learn Structured Appearance Models for Image Annotation” (approximately 35 pages), Accepted for publication in *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*.
- **A. Fazly**, P. Cook, S. Stevenson (forthcoming). “Unsupervised type and token identification of idiomatic expressions” (approximately 44 pages), Accepted for publication in *Computational Linguistics*.
- **A. Fazly**, S. Stevenson, and R. North (2007). “Automatically learning semantic knowledge about multiword predicates.” *Journal of Language Resources and Evaluation*, 41(1):61–89.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

- **A. Fazly**, A. Alishahi, and S. Stevenson (2008). “A Probabilistic incremental model of word learning in the presence of referential uncertainty”, In *Proceedings of the 30th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, Washington, D.C. (**Winner of the Cognitive Science 2008 Prize for the best paper on Language Modeling**)
- C. Parisien, **A. Fazly**, and S. Stevenson (2008). “An incremental Bayesian model for learning syntactic categories”, In *Proceedings of the 12th Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL)*, 89–96, Manchester, UK.
- A. Alishahi, **A. Fazly**, and S. Stevenson (2008). “Fast mapping in word learning: What probabilities tell us”, In *Proceedings of the 12th Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL)*, 57–64, Manchester, UK.
- M. Jamieson, **A. Fazly**, S. Dickinson, S. Stevenson, and S. Wachsmuth (2007). “Learning structured appearance models from captioned images of cluttered scenes”, In *Proceedings of the 11th IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV)*, Brazil.
- **A. Fazly** and S. Stevenson (2006). “Automatically constructing a lexicon of verb phrase idiomatic combinations.” In *Proceedings of the 11th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL’06)*, 337–344, Trento, Italy.
- **A. Fazly**, R. North, and S. Stevenson (2006). “Automatically determining allowable combinations of a class of flexible multiword expressions.” In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Computational Linguistics and Intelligent Text Processing (CICLing’06)*, 81–92. Mexico. (Published in Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Volume 3878 by Springer-Verlag)
- **A. Fazly** (1998). “A knowledge representation method for DENA2 natural language understanding system.” (in Persian) In *Proceedings of the 4th Annual Computer Society of Iran Computer Conference (CSICC 1998)*, Tehran, Iran.

REFEREED WORKSHOP PUBLICATIONS

- P. Cook, **A. Fazly**, S. Stevenson (2008). “The VNC-Tokens dataset”, To appear in *Proceedings of the LREC’08 Workshop Towards a Shared Task for Multiword Expressions*. Morocco.
- S. Mathe, **A. Fazly**, S. Dickinson, S. Stevenson (2008). “Learning the abstract motion semantics of verbs from captioned videos”, In *Proceedings of the 3rd International Workshop on Semantic Learning Applications in Multimedia (the new SLAM)*, Anchorage, Alaska.
- **A. Fazly** and S. Stevenson (2007). “Distinguishing subtypes of multiword expressions using linguistically-motivated statistical measures”, In *Proceedings of the ACL’07 Workshop on A Broader Perspective on Multiword Expressions*, 9–16. Prague, Czech Republic.

- P. Cook and **A. Fazly** and S. Stevenson (2007). “Pulling their weight: exploiting syntactic forms for the automatic identification of idiomatic expressions in context”, In *Proceedings of the ACL’07 Workshop on A Broader Perspective on Multiword Expressions*, 41–48. Prague, Czech Republic.
- **A. Fazly**, R. North, and S. Stevenson (2005). “Automatically distinguishing literal and figurative usages of highly polysemous verbs.” In *Proceedings of the ACL’05 Workshop on Deep Lexical Acquisition*, 38–47, Ann Arbor, USA.
- S. Stevenson, **A. Fazly**, and R. North (2004). “Statistical measures of the semi-productivity of light verb constructions.” In *Proceedings of the ACL’04 Workshop on Multiword Expressions*, 1–8, Barcelona, Spain.
- **A. Fazly** and G. Hirst (2003). “Testing the efficacy of part-of-speech information in word completion for users with disabilities.” In *Proceedings of the EACL’03 Workshop on Language Modeling for Text Entry Methods*, 9–16, Budapest, Hungary.

INVITED JOURNAL AND CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

- **A. Fazly**, S. Stevenson (forthcoming). “A distributional account of the semantics of multiword expressions”, Invited submission to the special issue of the Italian Journal of Linguistics, on the theme: *From context to meaning: distributional models of the lexicon in linguistics and cognitive science*.
- **A. Fazly** and S. Stevenson (2005). “Automatic acquisition of knowledge about multiword predicates.” (Companion paper to an invited talk by S. Stevenson) In *Proceedings of the 19th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information, and Computation (PACLIC’05)*, 31–42. Taiwan.

SUBMITTED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- **A. Fazly**, A. Alishahi, and S. Stevenson. “A probabilistic computational model of cross-situational word learning” (approximately 40 pages), Submitted to the *Journal of Cognitive Science*.

UNPUBLISHED PRESENTATIONS

- **A. Fazly** and S. Stevenson (2006). “Computational methods for corpus-based analysis of multiword verbs.” Poster presentation at Languages and Linguistics at the University of Toronto (LLUT). Canada.
- **A. Fazly** (2002). “Word completion for users with disabilities.” Poster presentation at the Grace Hopper Conference. Canada.
- **A. Fazly** and G. Hirst and F. Shein and T. Nantais (2001). “Word prediction as a writing aid.” Presentation at the CITO Research Review (Communications and Information Technology Ontario). Canada.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS .....

- Postdoctoral fellow, Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto. (Oct. 2006–Dec. 2008)
- Teaching Assistant, Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto. (Jan. 2000–Jan. 2007)
- Sessional Lecturer, Computer Science Division, Tehran Azad University. (Feb. 1999–Jun. 1999)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES .....

- Program Committee member for several conferences and workshops, including: EMNLP-CoNLL’07 Conference, AACL’07 Conference, COLING’08 Workshop on Human Judgements in Computational Linguistics, HLT-NAACL’07 Workshop on Computational Approaches to Figurative Language, ACL’07 Student Research Workshop.
- Reviewer for several journals, conferences and workshops, including: Computational Linguistics Journal (2007), Journal of Language Resources and Evaluation (2008), IEEE Transactions on Audio, Speech and Language (2007), EACL’09 Conference, ACL’07 Conference, HLT-NAACL’07 Conference, EMNLP’06 Conference.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE .....

Lecturer,  
TEHRAN AZAD UNIVERSITY

- Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (1998–1999).
- Principles of Programming Languages (1998–1999).

Teaching Assistant,  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

- Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (2005–2006).
- Breaking the Code: How Children Learn Language (2005–2006).
- Introduction to Computational Linguistics (2001–2002, 2003–2004, 2004–2005, 2006–2007).
- Natural Language Computing (2003–2004, 2004–2005).
- Principles of Programming Languages (2002–2003, 2003–2004, 2004–2005, 2005–2006).
- Software Tools and Systems Programming (2001–2002).
- Information Systems Analysis and Design (2000–2001).
- Data Structures and Algorithm Analysis (2000–2001).
- Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science (1999–2000).

REFERENCES .....

Available Upon Request.