

# Curriculum Vitae

Nick Pendar

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Uptake Networks  
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## Current Position

2009– Senior Web Mining Engineer at Uptake Networks

## Last Position

2008–2009 Senior Computational Linguist with the Advanced Research and Development Group at H5

2005–2008 Tenure track assistant professor of computational linguistics with the Applied Linguistics and Technology and Human Computer Interaction programs at Iowa State University of Science and Technology

## Education

### ■ Ph.D. (Linguistics)

2000–2005 University of Toronto Toronto, ON

**Dissertation Title:** Modularity and Soft Constraints: A study of conflict resolution in grammar

Area of specialization: computational linguistics

### ■ M.A. (Linguistics)

1999–2000 University of Toronto Toronto, ON

Area of specialization: computational linguistics

### ■ M.A. (General Linguistics)

1994–1997 The Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies Tehran, Iran

**Thesis Title:** Grammatical Tagging of a Persian Corpus

Area of specialization: computational linguistics

■ B.A. (English/Persian Translation)

1989–1993

Azad University of Tehran    Tehran, Iran

**Research & Development Activities**

■ Researcher

2008–

Research & Development  
H5

San Francisco, CA

- I have been working on text categorization, passage extraction, social networking analysis, fast clustering, sentiment analysis and Web mining at H5.

■ Co-/Principal Investigator

2005–2008

Dept. of English  
Iowa State University

Ames, IA

- Used machine-learning and NLP techniques to flag online text chats between potential pedophiles and children.
- Used machine learning, text categorization, and computational-linguistic techniques to model human grading of ESL writings.
- Collaborated in compiling large Web corpus of the Persian language. Developed a technique for supervised lexical acquisition from this corpus.
- Developed a Web-based database application designed for linguistic fieldwork and language archiving using MySQL and Python. The system has intelligent search capabilities along with automatic lexical acquisition from sentential data.
- Developed a corpus annotation scheme for learner corpora.
- Studied learner corpora in order to find automatic techniques to classify learners and their errors based on their writings.
- Developed a grammar development environment based on the formalisms of the Lexical Functional Grammar.

■ Research Assistant

2001–2003

Dept. of Computer Science  
University of Toronto

Toronto, ON

- Worked on a grammar formalism for freer-word-order languages. Also developed (i) a compiler for grammars written in this formalism, (ii) grammars based on that formalism, and (iii) experiments to ascertain its efficacy.



Assi, Mostafa, and MH (2000) "Grammatical Tagging of a Persian Corpus" *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics*. 5(1): 69-82.

### Non-Refereed Papers and Talks

For a full list of non-refereed publications and talks, visit <http://www.npendar.info>.

### Teaching

2005–2008 Iowa State University Ames, IA

- *Computers and Language* (undergraduate): A basic introduction to the use of computational linguistic techniques in today's computer applications. I designed the course and proposed it to the department in the 2005-2006 academic year.
- *Computational Analysis of English* (graduate): A course in computational linguistics mainly targeted toward the Ph.D. students in Applied Linguistics and Technology, but it is also open to computer science and human computer interaction students.
- *Statistical Natural Language Processing* (graduate): A lecture/seminar style course to cover some of the most common NLP applications and techniques and reviews recent research in the area. The course mainly targets graduate students in computer science and human computer interaction.
- *Seminar in Technology and Applied Linguistics: Application of Natural Language Processing in CALL and Automated Essay Scoring* (graduate): In this course, Ph.D. students read and discuss seminal papers in the use of NLP in language education and evaluation.
- *Descriptive English Grammar* (undergraduate): A basic grammar course for linguistics and English majors. Sections of the course are also open as a general humanities course.
- Also supervised a number of independent studies on the use of natural language processing in computer-assisted language learning.

2003–2004 University of Toronto Toronto, ON

- *Introduction to Language* (undergraduate): An introductory linguistics course for non-majors.
- *English Grammar* (undergraduate): A basic English grammar course for linguistics and TESL majors as well as general audience.
- *Linguistic Concepts for Effective Writing* (undergraduate): Introduction to the application of some descriptive linguistic concepts in writing.
- *Introduction to Cognitive Science* (undergraduate): A full-year required course for cognitive science and artificial intelligence majors. I taught the second half of the course, which covered linguistics and AI.

## Professional Service

- Member of several departmental committees at Iowa State University (2005–2008)
- Member of several Ph.D. and Masters thesis committees at Iowa State University
- Reviewer and Conference Program Committee Member
  - Referee for the journal *Corpora* (2009)
  - Referee for the journal *IEEE Transactions of Speech and Language Processing* (2008)
  - Member of the program committee for the conference *Text Information Retrieval* (2008, 2009)
  - Member of the program committee for the conference *Computational Approaches to Arabic Script-based Languages (CAASL-2, CAASL-3)* (2007, 2009)
  - Referee for the *Iranian Journal of Electrical and Computer Engineering* (2006)
  - Referee for the journal *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* (2006)
  - Referee for Blackwell Publishing (2006)
  - Referee for the *International Conference on East Asian Linguistics* (2006)
  - Referee for the journal *Computational Linguistics* (2005)

## Awards and Distinctions

- Ontario Graduate Scholarships (2004–2005)
- SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships (2001–2004)
- Ontario Graduate Scholarships (2001–2002, declined)
- UofT's School of Graduate Studies Fellowships (2000–2001)
- UofT's Department of Linguistics Fellowships (1999–2000)
- Scholarship from Japan Foundation Asia Centre for participating in the conference *Dictionaries in Asia: Research and Pedagogical Implications* (1997)
- Honours Degree from the Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies, Tehran (1997)

## Languages

- Persian, English, French (fair reading knowledge)

## Computer Skills

- Computer Languages: C/C++, Java, SQL, Perl, Prolog, Python, R, Visual Basic
- Operating Systems: Unix, Windows, MacOS X
- Markup Languages: HTML, XML, LaTeX