Nazila Gündoğdu, Ph.D.

- A computational linguist with 4 years of industry experience as a Natural Language Understanding Engineer in developing the voice assistant, Amazon Alexa.
- Excellent written and communication skills evident from my 8+ publications and 12+ industry projects requiring verbal and written coordination with both technical and non-technical audience.
- High problem-solving skills with ability to analyze complex problems, come up with integrated and creative solutions, and make recommendations.
- Exceptional ability to work under tight deadlines and across multiple teams in different geographical time zones, as evident from the number of my deliveries.

Stony Brook University	**New York, USA**
Ph.D. in Computational Linguistics	*2016 – 2022*
University of Calgary	**Calgary, Canada**
M.A. in Linguistics	*2014 – 2016*
Middle East Technical University	**Ankara, Turkey**
B.A. in English Language Teaching	*2010 – 2014*

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- Leading the efforts in onboarding our features on Generative AI (Large Language Models) in collaboration with other scientists and engineers.
- Providing constant support to my direct reports in terms of task prioritization, technical onboarding and dealing with ambiguities of the new workflow.
- Have overseen the design and shipment of 7 features/products, 2 statistical model releases, 5 A/B experiments and creation of a new domain, resulting in an average decrease of 13% unwanted traffic.
- Strived in focusing on high quality standards by introducing new strategies to improve the domain's health by tracking our metrics, reducing the customer-facing negative metrics such as friction and defect rate by over 22%.
- Have been working across teams and domains on science projects, such as predicting device lapse and building a more accurate model for home card hit on multi-modal devices.
- Delivered the committed projects and more in a timely fashion by planning meticulously, reprioritizing and having open communication with upper management, while coaching two under-performers and dealing with layoffs.
- Identified gaps in coverage for Widgets on multi-modal devices, which increased traffic by 28% while reducing friction by 8% once addressed.
- Have contributed to the NLU community by giving talks, writing developer guidelines and coordinating efforts across teams in the times of crisis blocking development work, being awarded the badge of appreciation.

Language Engineer II, Alexa Devices AI NLU   *12/2021 – 11/2022*

o Designed, implemented and released 6 features/products and 2 statistical model refresh.
o Was a top performer being chosen as the employee of the month 4 times and having received 3 accolades from inside and outside my organization.
o Took a lead working on high severity events, identified the root causes and mitigation strategies.
o Introduced new mechanisms to improve the overall operation of the team, such as how the feature process should work from the intake until it is developed.
o Gave various talks to both NLU developers and non-NLU developers audience about various aspects of the NLU work.
o Served as an annotation bar raiser reviewing dozens of feature designs from various domains.

Language Engineer I, Alexa Local Search NLU   *05/2020 – 12/2021*

o Developed advanced domain-specific artifacts to expand Alexa's capabilities and have administered their releases.
o Created and/or extended high quality annotation designs for new features for Alexa.
o Analyzed, troubleshot, and resolved failures and errors in various modules of Alexa engine pipeline.
o Provided expert reviews to other team members developmental artifacts.

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MAVEN   **Remote, USA**
Part-time Instructor, Advanced LLM Application Building   *02/2024 – 04/2024*

o Assisted the core instructor with the choice of topics, and substituting as needed.
o Prepared course material, slide decks and code notebooks for the topics selected, such as LLM hosting and programming alternatives to prompting, such as DSPy.
o Provided critical feedback to other collaborators on their topics, including LLM Guardrails and LLM Finetuning.
o Assisted and tutored the enrollees with the course content and assignments.

SKILLS

Programming:	Python & Pandas (working knowledge), SQL (working knowledge)
Industry:	Feature design, FST authoring and testing, Voice assistant devices pipeline, Version control systems such as `git`, people management
	sprint planning, Jira, quarterly planning, SageMaker, Amazon Bedrock, Generative AI (LLMs)
Languages:	Persian & Azeri (native), English & Turkish (near-native)
Service:	Conference organization, abstract review, student representation, workshops, reading group organization, animal shelter volunteer

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

o Data Science Lab (WorldQuant University)   *In Progress*
o Generative AI with LLMs (DeepLearning.AI via Coursera)   *2023*
o Data Science Math Skills (Duke University via Coursera)   *2023*
o Fine-tuning Large Language Models Workshop (Amazon Machine Learning University) *2023*
o Fine-tuning Large Language Models (DeepLearning.AI via Coursera)   *2023*
o What is Data Science (IBM via Coursera)   *2023*
o Tabular Data (Amazon Machine Learning University)   *2022*
o Machine Learning (Stanford University via Coursera)   *2020*