

# Wasi Uddin Ahmad

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<https://wasiahmad.github.io>

## Research Objective

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(1) Develop robust and generalizable language understanding and generation techniques; (2) make them inclusive, accessible, and equitable; and (3) apply them in applications that foster social good.

## Education

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**Ph.D. in Computer Science** 09.2017 - 09.2021

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

CGPA: 3.78 on a scale of 4.00

*Advisor:* Dr. Kai-Wei Chang

**Master of Computer Science** 08.2015 - 08.2017

University of Virginia (UVA)

CGPA: 4.00 on a scale of 4.00

*Advisor:* Dr. Kai-Wei Chang

**B.Sc. in Computer Science and Engineering** 01.2008 - 02.2013

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)

CGPA: 3.81 on a scale of 4.00

Position: Ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in a class of 142 students

## Publications [\[Google Scholar\]](#)

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1. Bhattacharjee, A., Hasan, T., **Ahmad, W. U.**, Samin, K., Islam, M. S., Iqbal, A., Rahman, M. S., & Shahriyar, R. (2022). BanglaBERT: Language Model Pretraining and Benchmarks for Low-Resource Language Understanding Evaluation in Bangla. In Findings of the ACL: NAACL.
2. Huang, K. H., **Ahmad, W. U.**, Peng, N., & Chang, K. W. (2021). Improving Zero-Shot Cross-Lingual Transfer Learning via Robust Training. In Proceedings of EMNLP.
3. Parvez, R. M., **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chakraborty, S., Ray, B., & Chang, K. W. (2021). Retrieval Augmented Code Generation and Summarization. In Findings of the ACL: EMNLP.
4. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Li, H., Mehdad, Y., & Chang, K. W. (2021). Syntax-augmented Multilingual BERT for Cross-lingual Transfer. In Proceedings of ACL.
5. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chi, J., Le, T., Norton, T., Tian, Y., & Chang, K. W. (2021). Intent Classification and Slot Filling for Privacy Policies. In Proceedings of ACL.
6. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Bai, X., Lee, S., & Chang, K. W. (2021). Select, Extract and Generate: Neural Keyphrase Generation with Layer-wise Coverage Attention. In Proceedings of ACL.
7. Hasan, M., Muttaqueen, T., Ishtiaq, A. A., Mehrab, K.S., Haque, M. M. A., Hasan, T., **Ahmad, W. U.**, Iqbal, A., & Shahriyar, R. (2021). CoDesc: A Large CodeDescription Parallel Dataset. In Findings of ACL.
8. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chakraborty, S., Ray, B., & Chang, K. W. (2021). Unified Pre-training for Program Understanding and Generation. In Proceedings of NAACL-HLT.

9. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Peng, N., & Chang, K. W. (2021). GATE: Graph Attention Transformer Encoder for Cross-lingual Relation and Event Extraction. In Proceedings of AAAI.
10. Chakraborty, S., Tafseer, M. T., & **Ahmad, W. U.** (2021). Simple or Complex? Learning to Predict Readability of Bengali Texts. In Proceedings of AAAI.
11. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chi, J., Tian, Y., & Chang, K. W. (2020). PolicyQA: A Reading Comprehension Dataset for Privacy Policies. In Findings of the ACL: EMNLP.
12. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chakraborty, S., Ray, B., & Chang, K. W. (2020). A Transformer-based Approach for Source Code Summarization. In Proceedings of ACL.
13. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Zhang, Z., Ma, X., Chang, K. W., & Peng, N. (2019). Cross-lingual Dependency Parsing with Unlabeled Auxiliary Languages. In Proceedings of CoNLL.
14. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2019). Context Attentive Document Ranking and Query Suggestion. In Proceedings of SIGIR.
15. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Zhang, Z., Ma, X., Hovy, E., Chang, K. W., & Peng, N. (2019). On Difficulties of Cross-Lingual Transfer with Order Differences: A Case Study on Dependency Parsing. In Proceedings of NAACL-HLT.
16. Duong, D., **Ahmad, W. U.**, Eskin, E., Chang, K. W., & Li, J. J. (2019). Word and sentence embedding tools to measure semantic similarity of Gene Ontology terms by their definitions. Journal of Computational Biology.
17. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2018). Intent-aware query obfuscation for privacy protection in personalized web search. In Proceedings of SIGIR.
18. Yu, P., **Ahmad, W. U.**, & Wang, H. (2018). Hide-n-Seek: An Intent-aware Privacy Protection Plugin for Personalized Web Search. In Proceedings of SIGIR.
19. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2018). Multi-task learning for document ranking and query suggestion. In Proceedings of ICLR.
20. **Ahmad, W. U.**, & Chang, K. W. (2018). A Corpus to Learn Refer-to-as Relations for Nominals. In Proceedings of LREC.
21. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Rahman, M. M., & Wang, H. (2016). Topic model based privacy protection in personalized Web search. In Proceedings of SIGIR.

## Preprints

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1. Haque, M. M. A., **Ahmad, W. U.**, Lourentzou, I., & Brown, C. (2022). FixEval: Execution-based Evaluation of Program Fixes for Competitive Programming Problems. arXiv preprint arXiv:2206.07796.
2. Parvez, M. R., Chi, J., **Ahmad, W. U.**, Tian, Y., & Chang, K. W. (2022). Retrieval Enhanced Data Augmentation for Question Answering on Privacy Policies. arXiv preprint arXiv:2204.08952.
3. Wu, D., **Ahmad, W. U.**, Dev, S., & Chang, K. W. (2022). Representation Learning for Resource-Constrained Keyphrase Generation. arXiv preprint arXiv:2203.08118.
4. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chakraborty, S., Ray, B., & Chang, K. W. (2022). Summarize and Generate to Back-translate: Unsupervised Translation of Programming Languages. arXiv preprint arXiv:2205.11116.
5. Bhattacharjee, A., Hasan, T., **Ahmad, W. U.**, & Shahriyar, R. (2022). BanglaNLG: Benchmarks and Resources for Evaluating Low-Resource Natural Language Generation in Bangla. arXiv preprint arXiv:2205.11081.

6. Hasan, T., Bhattacharjee, A., **Ahmad, W. U.**, Li, Y. F., Kang, Y. B., & Shahriyar, R. (2021). CrossSum: Beyond English-Centric Cross-Lingual Abstractive Text Summarization for 1500+ Language Pairs. arXiv preprint arXiv:2112.08804.
7. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Tushar, M. G. R., Chakraborty, S., & Chang, K. W. (2021). AVATAR: A Parallel Corpus for Java-Python Program Translation. arXiv preprint arXiv:2108.11590.
8. Hasan, M., Mehrab, K.S., **Ahmad, W. U.**, & Shahriyar, R. (2021). Text2App: A Framework for Creating Android Apps from Text Descriptions. arXiv preprint arXiv:2104.08301.
9. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Bai, X., Peng, N., & Chang, K. W. (2018). Learning Robust, Transferable Sentence Representations for Text Classification. arXiv preprint arXiv:1810.00681.

## Industrial Experience

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<b>AWS AI Labs, Santa Clara, CA</b> Applied Scientist II, AWS AI Labs	10.2021 - Present
<b>Facebook AI, Menlo Park, CA</b> Research Intern, Language and Translation Technology	06.2020 - 09.2020
<b>Yahoo Research, Sunnyvale, CA</b> Research Intern, Ad Quality Science	06.2019 - 09.2019
<b>Microsoft AI &amp; Research, Redmond, WA</b> Research Intern, Business Applications Group	06.2018 - 09.2018
<b>Walmart Labs, Reston, VA</b> Research Intern, Wireless Fraud Prevention	06.2016 - 08.2016
<b>REVE Systems, Dhaka, Bangladesh</b> Software Development Engineer, Android	02.2013 - 10.2013

## Teaching Experience

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<b>University of California, Los Angeles</b> Graduate Teaching Assistant	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Computer Science II. Instructor: David Smallberg.</li> <li>• Introduction to Machine Learning. Instructor: Kai-Wei Chang.</li> </ul>	01.2019 - 06.2019 01.2018 - 03.2018
<b>University of Virginia</b> Graduate Teaching Assistant	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Machine Learning. Instructor: Kai-Wei Chang.</li> <li>• Natural Language Processing. Instructor: Kai-Wei Chang.</li> <li>• Advanced Software Development. Instructor: Tom Horton.</li> <li>• Capstone Practicum I &amp; II. Instructor: Aaron Bloomfield.</li> </ul>	01.2017 - 05.2017 08.2016 - 12.2016 08.2015 - 05.2016 08.2015 - 05.2016
<b>Ahsanullah University of Science &amp; Technology</b> Lecturer, Department of Computer Science	11.2013 - 08.2015

## Research/Invited Talks

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- Representation Learning for Low-resource Language Processing, AWS AI, May, 2021

- Representation Learning for Low-resource Language Processing, Microsoft, April, 2021
- Context Attentive Document Ranking and Query Suggestion, SIGIR, July 2019
- Multi-Task Learning, Machine Learning Seminar, UCLA, November 2017

## Professional Services

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### Senior Program Committee

- 2023: AAAI

### Program Committee/Reviewer

- 2023: ICLR
- 2022: ICML, SIGIR, IJCAI, KDD, ARR, LREC, AAAI, WSDM, ICLR
- 2021: NIPS, EMNLP, SIGIR, ACL-IJCNLP, IJCAI, NAACL, EACL, AAAI
- 2020: EMNLP, ICML, IJCAI, AAAI, LREC
- others: NAACL 2019, EMNLP 2018 (secondary reviewer), TOIS (journal)

## Honors, Awards, and Scholarships

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|---|--------------------|
| • SIGIR Student Travel Grant                            | 2016, 2019         |
| • ICLR Travel Award                                     | 2018               |
| • Graduate Division Fellowships, UCLA                   | 2017               |
| • William L Ballard Jr Endowed Graduate Fellowship, UVA | 2017               |
| • Graduate Division Fellowships, UVA                    | 2015 - 2016        |
| • Dean's List Award, BUET                               | 2008-09 to 2010-11 |
| • University Merit Scholarship, BUET                    | 2007-08 to 2010-11 |

## References

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### Dr. Kai-Wei Chang

Associate Professor  
 Department of Computer Science  
 University of California, Los Angeles  
 Email: kwchang@cs.ucla.edu

### Dr. Nanyun Peng

Assistant Professor  
 Department of Computer Science  
 University of California, Los Angeles  
 Email: violetpeng@cs.ucla.edu