

# MOHI REZA

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- RESEARCH FOCUS** My overarching research interests span across *human-computer interaction (HCI)*, *learner-centered design (LCD)* and *education technology*. I design, build and evaluate autonomous *computer-assisted language-learning (CALL)* systems that incorporate unique needs of individual learners, and reimagine the way they can utilize technology to visualize and comprehend the sounds of language.
- EDUCATION** **University of British Columbia** | (Vancouver BC, Canada | September 2018 – Present)  
M.Sc., Computer Science
- *Current Average: 90.2%, expected graduation: August 2020*
- BRAC University** | (Dhaka, Bangladesh | January 2014 – December 2017)  
B.Sc., Computer Science, Economics Double Major
- *Cumulative GPA: 3.93/4.0, graduated with highest distinction*
  - *Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in CS program, class of 2017-18*
- EMPLOYMENT** **Graduate Research Assistant** | (Vancouver BC, Canada | May 2019 – Present)  
University of British Columbia, Department of Computer Science
- *Human-Computer-Interaction, Education Technology, Computer-Assisted Language Learning*
  - *Advisor: Professor Dongwook Yoon | [dwyoon.com](http://dwyoon.com)*
- Graduate Teaching Assistant** | (Vancouver BC, Canada | September 2018 – Present)  
Department of Computer Science, University of British Columbia
- *Lead TA: CPSC 121/121V: Models of Computation | (Summer T1 2019)*
  - *TA: CPSC 121: Models of Computation | (Winter T1 & T2 2018, Winter T1 2019)*
- RichReview Deployment Facilitator** | (Vancouver BC, Canada | August 2019 – Present)  
Department of Computer Science, University of British Columbia | [richreview.net](http://richreview.net)
- *Managed the deployment of RichReview, a novel document annotation tool, to 3 language classrooms at UBC Asian Studies (KORN 200, CHIN131, CHIN 481).*
  - *Worked closely with three language instructors and a developer to rapidly resolve technical issues with the system.*
  - *Conducted in-class demos to introduce RichReview to over 100 students.*
- Programmer (.Net Developer)** (Dhaka, Bangladesh | April 2018 – July 2018)  
Enterprise Solutions Department, Southtech Limited | [southtechgroup.com](http://southtechgroup.com)
- *Specialized in full-stack web development with C#, MS SQL, ASP.NET MVC and JS*
- Intern (.Net Developer)** (Dhaka, Bangladesh, January 2018 – March 2018)  
Enterprise Solutions Department, Southtech Limited | [southtechgroup.com](http://southtechgroup.com)
- *Built an internal human-resource directory for the company from scratch based on stakeholder requirements.*
- Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (Student Tutor)** | (Summer 2016 – Fall 2017)  
Department of Computer Science & Engineering, BRAC University
- Undergraduate Courses*
- *CSE230: Discrete Mathematics | (Summer & Fall 16)*

- *CSE161: Introduction to Computer Programming* | (Spring, Summer & Fall 17)

POSTER AND  
CONFERENCE  
PUBLICATION

- [c.1] Guiding Pace and Intonation of Speech in Adult ESL Learners Using Visual Scaffolds in a Pronunciation Training Tool *Mohi Reza, Dongwook Yoon*

(Poster Presentation, won the *best science-communication award* category)  
*UBC DFP (Designing for People) Design Showcase 2019*

VOLUNTARY  
SERVICE

**Event Co-Chair, DFP Summer School** | (Vancouver, BC, Canada | Summer 2019)  
UBC Designing for People Research Cluster | <https://dfp.ubc.ca>

- Organized a [two-day workshop on E-Portfolios](#) in collaboration with event co-chairs Paul Bucci, Anna Offenwanger and Natalya Lebedeva.

**Meeting Coordinator, IEEE Student Activities Committee Member** | (Asia Pacific, 2018)

IEEE Region 10, Asia Pacific | [sac.ieeeer10.org](http://sac.ieeeer10.org)

- Served as a liaison between the R10 SAC advisor, professor Rajesh Ingle, and fellow committee members.
- Organized and hosted weekly meetings and webinars at a sectional level with members across Asia Pacific.

**Content Writer, IEEE Student Activities Committee Member** | (Bangladesh, 2017)

IEEE Bangladesh Section (BDS) | [sites.ieee.org/bangladesh-sac/](http://sites.ieee.org/bangladesh-sac/)

- Developed IEEE Bangladesh Section's first successful IEEE Foundation grant application titled "Demystifying Nuclear Power Technology". *IEEE BDS was awarded \$10,000 by IEEE Foundation in 2017 as a result of that application.*
- Served as Project Lead for IEEE BDS Anticlockwise,
- Served as Content Team Lead, IEEE BDS SYW Congress 2017.

**Chairperson** | (Bangladesh, 2017)

IEEE BRAC University Student Branch | [ieeembracu.com](http://ieeembracu.com)

- Lead a team of 5 student branch officers to manage a student body of 70+ IEEE Members.
- Oversaw the administration of all student branch activities and student affairs.

ACADEMIC  
HONORS

- **Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal, BRAC University 13<sup>th</sup> Convocation 2019**  
*Awarded for Ranking 1<sup>st</sup> in CS Program, Class of 2017-18*
- **UBC International Tuition Award** (2018-2019)  
*Awarded to international grad students in recognition of academic achievements*
- **BRAC University Vice Chancellor's List** (9 Semesters)  
*Awarded for achieving a GPA of 3.9 - 4.0 in a particular semester.*
- **BRAC University Dean's List** (2 Semesters)  
*Awarded for achieving a GPA of 3.7 - 3.89 in a particular semester.*
- **BRAC University Performance Based Scholarships** (7 Semesters)  
*10-50% tuition waivers awarded for maintaining a high cumulative CGPA*
- **Daily Star Award for Academic Excellence** (2011 | 2013)  
*For good GCE and IGCSE performance*

**PROJECTS Using Visual Scaffolds in a Language Learning Tool as guides for Pacing and Intonation**

(Winter Term 2, CPSC 554Y Solo Project, University of British Columbia)

Intonation and pace are important prosodic features that are challenging for non-native students to master on their own. There exists no good visual design to guide the student's narration of a given passage, since phonological encoding of plain text is inherently ambiguous (e.g., OB-ject vs. ob-JECT). To solve this problem, I built and evaluated a system that augments plain text with four different visual scaffolds that serve as guides for pacing and intonation.

**WeatherBug Voice: Rethinking Weather Information Communications**

(Winter Term 2, CPSC 554K Project, University of British Columbia)

We collaborated with WeatherBug, a leading weather information company, to tackle the problem of *error-handling* in weather VUIs. We identified several error-handling strategies from the literature and implemented them in our VUI prototyping tool. The tool also facilitated a Wizard of Oz user study, in which we tested our error handling strategies against the ones currently used in the WeatherBug Alexa app. We conducted a user study and evaluated the four strategies (rapid re-prompt; detail escalation; context awareness; and grunt mode).

*Collaborators: Anna Offenwanger, Nicholas Hetherington*

**Marvin Meeting: Bringing richness of one-on-one office hours to remote meetings**

(Winter Term 1, CPSC 544 Project, University of British Columbia)

Marvin Meetings is a telecommunication tool that allows for synchronous handwriting and drawing on a shared surface. This emulates the experience of writing on a white-board or a shared piece of paper and enables teachers and students to quickly build common ground, much like they do in real one-on-one meetings. We built and evaluated a prototype for this idea using the 5 stages of the Design Thinking process.

*Collaborators: Anna Offenwanger, Nicholas Hetherington, Siyuan He*

**Was That Sarcasm? -- A Survey of Machine Learning Models for Classifying Sarcastic Comments on Reddit Using Word Embeddings**

(Winter Term 1, CPSC 532M Project, University of British Columbia)

We explored the use of word embedding models to represent various Reddit comments as high-dimensional vectors and applied these vectors as inputs to a collection of classification models to classify comments as either being sarcastic or not. Further, we compared the performance of word embedding models to traditional text-classification techniques using a bag-of-n-grams representation.

*Collaborator: Kyle Clarkson*

**TECHNICAL SKILLSET**

- Programming: Java, C#, JavaScript
- HCI Research: Rapid Prototyping, Design Thinking
- Web Development: HTML5, CSS3, ASP.NET MVC 5
- Database: MySQL, MS SQL