The 2019 Widening NLP Workshop

Program of the Workshop

July 28, 2019
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Introduction

Welcome to 2019 Widening NLP Workshop!

In 2016, a select group of people met at ACL in Berlin to discuss the underrepresentation of women and other minorities in the Natural Language Processing community. The outcome of this was the first Workshop for Women and underrepresented minorities in NLP at ACL 2017: a workshop specifically dedicated to highlight the work of groups whose work is often overlooked. We are proud to continue this work with the 2019 Widening NLP workshop.

Every year, we strive to make the workshop more inclusive. After the 2017 iteration of WiNLP, we set up two submission deadlines, one for early submissions to accommodate those who need more time for visa applications, and a later deadline for those who do not have such concerns.

Following the success of the 2018 workshop, this year we sought to also highlight diversity in scientific background, discipline, training, obtained degrees and seniority. We also introduced a workshopping feature, where authors themselves opted in to give feedback to their fellow authors before the papers were sent out for review.

The 2019 workshop has already been a great success in that we received 110 submissions! Of these submissions 55% were by women as first authors, 62% were by people of color, 40% of all papers came from outside of North America and Europe. Turning our attention to the papers which were accepted, equally encouraging numbers come up: 70% of all accepted submission had women as their first authors, 75% of all accepted papers were by people of color, and 60% of the accepted papers came from outside of Europe and North America.

We are proud to have three great invited speakers - Drs. Emily M. Bender, Mona Diab and Alvin Grissom II, as well as four excellent panelists - Drs. Afra Alishahi, Layla El Asri, Francisco Guzman and Thamar Solorio.

We thus proudly present the 2019 Widening NLP workshop, and hope that you will enjoy the wonderful work of the authors, speakers, and panelists of this edition of the workshop.

Amittai, Diyi, Rossana, Samira, and Zeerak
Organizers:

- Amittai Axelrod, DiDi AI Labs
- Diyi Yang, Carnegie Mellon University
- Rossana Cunha, Federal University of Minas Gerais
- Samira Shaikh, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Zeerak Waseem, University of Sheffield

Social Media Chairs:

- Erika Varis, Walt Disney Studios
- Kristen Johnson, Purdue University

Sponsorship Volunteers:

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- Ryan Georgi, University of Washington

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- George Chrysostomou, University of Sheffield
- Ann Clifton, Spotify
- Shay B. Cohen, University of Edinburgh
- Marta R. Costa-jussà, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
- Ryan Cotterell, Johns Hopkins University
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Alex Marin, Microsoft Corporation
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Nikita Nangia, New York University
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Amanda Stent, Bloomberg
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Swabha Swayamdipta, Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence; University of Washington
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Jeniya Tabassum, Ohio State University
Chenhao Tan, University of Colorado Boulder
Christoph Teichmann, Bloomberg LP
Joel Tetreault, Grammarly
Christoph Tillmann, IBM Research
Sara Tonelli, Facebook
Elena Tutubalina, Kazan Federal University
Shyam Upadhyay, University of Pennsylvania
Antal van den Bosch, Radboud University Nijmegen
Aline Villavicencio, University of Essex, UK
Claudia Volpetti, Polytechnic University of Milan
Ivan Vulić, University of Cambridge
Bonnie Webber, University of Edinburgh
Olga Zamarova, University of Washington
Luke Zettlemoyer, University of Washington
Haiyang Zhang, University of Sheffield

Invited Speakers:

Emily M. Bender, University of Washington
Mona Diab, George Washington University
Alvin Grissom II, Ursinus University

Panelists:

Afra Alishahi, Tilburg University
Layla El Asri, Microsoft
Francisco “Paco” Guzman, Facebook
Thamar Solorio, University of Houston
# Table of Contents

**Development of a General Purpose Sentiment Lexicon for Igbo Language**  
Emeka Ogbuju and Moses Onyesolu

**Towards a Resource Grammar for Runyankore and Rukiga**  
David Bamutura and Peter Ljunglöf

**Speech Recognition for Tigrinya language Using Deep Neural Network Approach**  
Hafte Abera and Sebsibe Hmamian

**Knowledge-Based Word Sense Disambiguation with Distributional Semantic Expansion**  
Hossein Rouhizadeh, Mehrnoush Shamsfard and Masoud Rouhizadeh

**AspeRa: Aspect-based Rating Prediction Model**  
Elena Tutubalina, Valentin Malykh, Sergey Nikolenko, Anton Alekseev and Ilya Shenbin

**Recognizing Arrow Of Time In The Short Stories**  
Fahimeh Hosseini, Hosein Fooladi and Mohammad Reza Samsami

**Amharic Word Sequence Prediction**  
Nuniyat Kifle

**A Framework for Relation Extraction Across Multiple Datasets in Multiple Domains**  
Geeticka Chauhan, Matthew McDermott and Peter Szolovits

**Learning and Understanding Different Categories of Sexism Using Convolutional Neural Network’s Filters**  
Sima Sharifirad and Alon Jacovi

**Modeling Five Sentence Quality Representations by Finding Latent Spaces Produced with Deep Long Short-Memory Models**  
Pablo Rivas

**English-Ethiopian Languages Statistical Machine Translation**  
Solomon Teferra Abate, Michael Melese, Martha Yifiru Tachbelie, Million Meshesha, Solomon Atinafu, Wondwossen Mulugeta, Yaregal Assabie, Hafte Abera, Biniyam Ephem, Tewodros Gebreselassie, Wondimagegnhue Tsegaye Tufa, Amanuel Lemma, Tsegaye Andargie and Seifedin Shifaw

**Towards Extending TED-Multilingual Discourse Bank: A discourse relation alignment experiment**  
Sibel Ozer and Deniz Zeyrek

**The Design and Construction of the Corpus of China English**  
Lixin Xia and Yun Xia

**Learning Trilingual Dictionaries for Urdu – Roman Urdu – English**  
Moiz Rauf and Sebastian Padó

**Joint Inference on Bilingual Parse Trees for PP-attachment Disambiguation**  
Geetanjali Rakshit

**Using Attention-based Bidirectional LSTM to Identify Different Categories of Offensive Language Directed Toward Female Celebrities**  
Sima Sharifirad and Stan Matwin
Sentiment Analysis Model for Opinionated Awngi Text: Case of Music Reviews
Melese Mihret and Muluneh Atinaf

A compositional view of questions
Maria Boritchev and Maxime Amblard

Controlling the Specificity of Clarification Question Generation
Yang Trista Cao, Sudha Rao and Hal Daumé III

Non-Monotonic Sequential Text Generation
Kiante Brantley, Kyunghyun Cho, Hal Daumé and Sean Welleck

Lipstick on a Pig: Debiasing Methods Cover up Systematic Gender Biases in Word Embeddings But do not Remove Them
Hila Gonen and Yoav Goldberg

How does Grammatical Gender Affect Noun Representations in Gender-Marking Languages?
Hila Gonen, Yova Kementchedjhieva and Yoav Goldberg

KaWAT: A Word Analogy Task Dataset for Indonesian
Kemal Kurniawan

Automatic Product Categorization for Official Statistics
Andrea Roberson

An Online Topic Modeling Framework with Topics Automatically Labeled
Jin Fenglei, Gao Cuiyun and Lyu Michael R.

Construction and Alignment of Multilingual Entailment Graphs for Semantic Inference
Sabine Weber and Mark Steedman

KB-NLG: From Knowledge Base to Natural Language Generation
Wen Cui, Minghui Zhou, Rongwen Zhao and Narges Norouz

Acoustic Characterization of Singaporean Children’s English: Comparisons to American and British Counterparts
Yuling Gu and Nancy Chen

Rethinking Phonotactic Complexity
Tiago Pimentel, Brian Roark and Ryan Cotterell

Implementing a Multi-lingual Chatbot for Positive Reinforcement in Young Learners
Francisca Oladipo and Abdulmalik Rufai

A Deep Learning Approach to Language-independent Gender Prediction on Twitter
Reyhaneh Hashempour

Isolating the Effects of Modeling Recursive Structures: A Case Study in Pronunciation Prediction of Chinese Characters
Minh Nguyen, Gia H Ngo and Nancy Chen

Benchmarking Neural Machine Translation for Southern African Languages
Jade Abbott and Laura Martinus

OCR Quality and NLP Preprocessing
Margot Mieskes and Stefan Schmunk
Developing a Fine-grained Corpus for a Less-resourced Language: the case of Kurdish
Roshna Abdulrahman, Hossein Hassani and Sina Ahmadi

Amharic Question Answering for Biography, Definition, and Description Questions
Tilahun Abedissa Taffa and Mulugeta Libsie

Polysemous Language in Child Directed Speech
Sammy Floyd, Libby Barak, Adele Goldberg and Casey Lew-Williams

Principled Frameworks for Evaluating Ethics in NLP Systems
Shrimai Prabhumoye, Elijah Mayfield and Alan W Black

Understanding the Shades of Sexism in Popular TV Series
Nayeon Lee, Yejin Bang, Jamin Shin and Pascale Fung

Evaluating Ways of Adapting Word Similarity
Libby Barak and Adele Goldberg

Exploring the Use of Lexicons to aid Deep Learning towards the Detection of Abusive Language
Anna Koufakou and Jason Scott

Entity-level Classification of Adverse Drug Reactions: a Comparison of Neural Network Models
Ilseyar Alimova and Elena Tutubalina

Context Effects on Human Judgments of Similarity
Libby Barak, Noe Kong-Johnson and Adele Goldberg

NLP Automation to Read Radiological Reports to Detect the Stage of Cancer Among Lung Cancer Patients
Khushbu Gupta

Augmenting Named Entity Recognition Systems with Commonsense Knowledge
Gaith Dekhili, Tan Ngoc Le and Fatiha Sadat

Pardon the Interruption: Automatic Analysis of Gender and Competitive Speech Overlap in United States Supreme Court Hearings
Haley Lepp

Evaluating Coherence in Dialogue Systems using Entailment
Nouha Dziri, Ehsan Kamalloo, Kory Mathewson and Osmar Zaiane

Exploiting machine algorithms in vocalic quantification of African English corpora
Lasisi Adeiza Isiaka

Assessing the Ability of Neural Machine Translation Models to Perform Syntactic Rewriting
Jahkel Robin, Alvin Grissom II and Matthew Roselli

Authorship Recognition with Short-Text using Graph-based Techniques
Laura Cruz

A Parallel Corpus Mixtec-Spanish
Cynthia Montaño, Gerardo Sierra Martínez, Gemma Bel-Enguix and Helena Gomez

Emoji Usage Across Platforms: A Case Study for the Charlottesville Event
Khyati Mahajan and Samira Shaikh
Reading KITTY: Semitone Range as an Indicator of Reading Skill
   Alfredo Gomez, Alicia Ngo, Alessandra Otundo and Julie Medero

Adversarial Attack on Sentiment Classification
   Yi-Ting (Alicia) Tsai, Min-Chu Yang and Han-Yu Chen

CSI Peru News: finding the culprit, victim and location in news articles
   Gina Bustamante and Arturo Oncevay

Exploring Social Bias in Chatbots using Stereotype Knowledge
   Nayeon Lee, Andrea Madotto and Pascale Fung

Cross-Sentence Transformations in Text Simplification
   Fernando Alva-Manchego, Carolina Scarton and Lucia Specia
Workshop Program

Sunday, July 28, 2019

8:15–08:45 Registration

8:45–10:30 Session 1: Opening and Posters

8:45–9:00 Opening Remarks

9:00–9:45 Keynote 1: Emily M. Bender

9:45–9:50 Short Break

9:50–10:30 Poster Session A

Development of a General Purpose Sentiment Lexicon for Igbo Language
Emeka Ogbuju and Moses Onyesolu

Towards a Resource Grammar for Runyankore and Rukiga
David Bamutura and Peter Ljunglöf

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Sunday, July 28, 2019 (continued)

Learning and Understanding Different Categories of Sexism Using Convolutional Neural Network's Filters
sima sharifirad and Alon jacovi

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An automatic discourse relation alignment experiment on TED-MDB
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sima sharifirad and stan matwin

Sentiment Analysis Model for Opinionated Awngi Text: Case of Music Reviews
Melese Mihret and Muluneh Atinaf

10:30–11:00  Break
11:00-12:30  Session 2: Poster Session

11:00–12:30  Poster Session B

A compositional view of questions
Maria Boritchev and Maxime Amblard

Controlling the Specificity of Clarification Question Generation
Yang Trista Cao, Sudha Rao and Hal Daumé III

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kiante brantley, Kyunghyun Cho, Hal Daumé and Sean Welleck

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Acoustic Characterization of Singaporean Children’s English: Comparisons to American and British Counterparts
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Benchmarking Neural Machine Translation for Southern African Languages
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OCR Quality and NLP Preprocessing
Margot Mieskes and Stefan Schmunk

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Anna Koufakou and Jason Scott
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Ilseyar Alimova and Elena Tutubalina

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Libby Barak, Noe Kong-Johnson and Adele Goldberg

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Khushbu Gupta, Ratchainant Thammasudjarit and Ammarin Thakkinstian

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Gaith Dekhili, Tan Ngoc Le and Fatiha Sadat

Pardon the Interruption: Automatic Analysis of Gender and Competitive Turn-Taking in United States Supreme Court Hearings
Haley Lepp

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Nouha Dziri, Ehsan Kamalloo, Kory Mathewson and Osmar Zaiane

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Lasisi Adeiza Isiaka

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Alfredo Gomez, Alicia Ngo, Alessandra Otondo and Julie Medero

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Nayeon Lee, Andrea Madotto and Pascale Fung

Cross-Sentence Transformations in Text Simplification
Fernando Alva-Manchego, Carolina Scarton and Lucia Specia

12:30–14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:50 Session 3
14:00–14:45 Keynote 2: Mona Diab
14:45–15:30 Panel Discussion

15:30–16:00 Break

16:00–17:40 Session 4
16:00–16:45 Keynote 3: Alvin Grissom II
16:45–16:55 Closing Remarks
16:55–17:40 Mentoring Session