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Proceedings of the 3rd International Workshop on Natural Language Generation from the Semantic Web (WebNLG+)

Thiago Castro Ferreira, Claire Gardent, Nikolai Ilinykh, Chris van Der Lee,
Simon Mille, Diego Moussallem, Anastasia Shimorina

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WebNLG 2020

**Proceedings of the
3rd International Workshop
on
Natural Language Generation
from the Semantic Web
(WebNLG+)**



**18 December 2020
Dublin, Ireland (Virtual)**

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209 N. Eighth Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
USA
Tel: +1-570-476-8006
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acl@aclweb.org

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Preface

Welcome to the third edition of the “Workshop on Natural Language Generation from the Semantic Web” (WebNLG+).

Initiated in 2015 and tightly linked to the eponymous WebNLG Challenge, the WebNLG workshops target two goals: to investigate the micro-planning tasks involved in generating from RDF triples (document structuring, referring expression generation, aggregation, lexicalisation, surface realisation); and to explore the potential of NLG to verbalise the Semantic Web.

Different from the WebNLG 2017 challenge, WebNLG+ includes not one but four tasks: Generating from RDF triples into English and into Russian; and parsing English and Russian text into a set of RDF triples. The challenge attracted participation from 16 teams, two of which subsequently withdrew yielding a final total of 15 submitted systems and 14 participants: 6 from the private sector (Amazon Shanghai AI Lab with two systems, Facebook, Google, Huawei Noah’s Ark Lab, Orange, Sber AI Lab) and 8 from universities or public research labs (Montréal, Prague, Catalunya, São Paulo, Ireland, Ohio State, AIST). The proposed approaches include template-based methods, mono-task neural approaches, bilingual approaches and multi-task bi-directional, bilingual models. Pre-training is widely used and various data transformation (delexicalisation) and data augmentation techniques were explored.

The technical program of the WebNLG+ 2020 workshop consists of 2 long papers, 4 short papers and 15 WebNLG+ system descriptions, all of which will be presented COVID-style, either through live videos or through pre-recorded videos. The program also includes an overview of the WebNLG+ 2020 participants and the results, which will be presented by the challenge organisers.

WebNLG+ (workshop and challenge) was organised by an international group of young and less young researchers: Thiago Castro Ferreira (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil), Claire Gardent (CNRS / LORIA, Nancy, France), Nikolai Ilinykh (University of Gothenburg, Sweden), Chris van der Lee (Tilburg University, The Netherlands), Simon Mille (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain), Diego Mousallem (Paderborn University, Germany) and Anastasia Shimorina (Université de Lorraine/LORIA, Nancy, France).

We would like to thank all the people who contributed to this workshop: the authors for their submissions; the program committee for their prompt and effective reviewing; the INLG 2020 organising committee, especially the workshops chairs, Daniel Braun; the publication chair, Laura Perez-Beltrachini, and the Programme chairs, Brian Davis, Yvette Graham, John Kelleher and Gowri Sripada Pighin; and the workshop participants for sharing time and thoughts on this increasingly important research topic. Special thanks go to Yannick Parmentier (Université de Lorraine, Nancy, France) for the short notice processing of these proceedings into an ACL anthology compliant format.

Wishing you all an enjoyable, informative read!

Thiago, Claire, Nikolai, Chris, Simon, Diego and Anastasia

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