



Rennes, 25-26 October 2024
13th Workshop on NLP4CALL 2024

Friday 25 October – Morning sessions

8:30: Registration, main hall bâtiment T, Université Rennes 2

8:45: Opening session with
 Jérôme Eneau Vice-Président Recherche et Valorisation
 Nicolas Klutchnikoff Vice-président transition numérique
 Franck Barbin, Director of Language Department, and Christine Evain, Director of the LIDILE research team, amphi T
 David Alfter NLP4CALL chair

Chair: Christine Evain

9:15-10:15: Keynote speaker - amphi T

Helen Yannakoudakis – Large Language Models in Language Teaching and Assessment

In this talk, Helen Yannakoudakis focuses on the potential for integrating large language models (LLMs) into AI-powered language teaching and assessment systems. She explores various research areas including content creation, automated grading, and grammatical error correction, while also addressing the risks and ethical concerns surrounding the use of generative AI in language learning technology. She highlights the need for further research to better understand the strengths and limitations of LLMs and to address foreseeable risks such as misinformation and harmful bias, and explore several directions for future work.

10:15-10:30 Coffee break

Chair: Cyriel Mallart

10:30-11:00

- Jingle BERT, Jingle BERT, Frozen All the Way: Freezing Layers to Identify CEFR

Levels of Second Language Learners Using BERT

Ricardo Muñoz Sánchez, David Alfter, Simon Dobnik, Maria Szawerna, Elena Volodina

11:00-11:30

- Semantic Error Prediction: Estimating Word Production Complexity
David Strohmaier, Paula Buttery

11:30-11:45 Coffee break, main hall

Chair: Jasper Degraeuwe

11:45-12:15

- Out-of-the-Box Graded Vocabulary Lists with Generative Language Models: Fact or Fiction?
David Alfter

12:15-12:45

- Generating Contexts for ESP Vocabulary Exercises with LLMs
Igliko Nikolova-Stoupak, Serge Bibauw, Amandine Dumont, Françoise Stas, Patrick Watrin, Thomas François

LUNCH – Buffet and drinks

Friday 25 October – Afternoon sessions

Chair: Ricardo Muñoz Sánchez

14:00-14:30

- LLM chatbots as a language practice tool: a user study
Gladys Tyen, Andrew Caines, Paula Buttery

14:30-15:00

- A Conversational Intelligent Tutoring System for Improving English Proficiency of Non-Native Speakers via Debriefing of Online Meeting Transcriptions
Juan Antonio Pérez-Ortiz, Miquel Esplà-Gomis, Víctor M. Sánchez-Cartagena, Felipe Sánchez-Martínez, Roman Chernysh, Gabriel Mora-Rodríguez, Lev Berezchnoy

15:00-15:30 Demo presentations in amphitheatre

- Developing a Pedagogically Oriented Interactive Reading Tool with Teachers in the Loops
Mihwa Lee, Björn Rudzewitz, Xiaobin Chen
- Developing a Web-Based Intelligent Language Assessment Platform Powered by Natural Language Processing Technologies
Sarah Löber, Björn Rudzewitz, Daniela Verratti Souto, Luisa Ribeiro-Flucht, Xiaobin Chen
- Generating Controlled Grammar Exercises from Various Sources
Guillaume Toussaint, Yannick Parmentier, Claire Gardent

15:30-15:40 One-minute teaser presentations of posters

15:40-16:30 Coffee break & posters & demos for hands on in main hall

Posters

- Enhancing a multi-faceted verb-centered resource to help a language learner: the case of Breton
Annie Foret, Erwan Hupel, Pêr Morvan
- Evaluating the Generalisation of an Artificial Learner
Bernardo Stearns, Nicolas Ballier, Thomas Gaillat, Andrew Simpkin, John P. McCrae
- Investigating Acoustic Correlates of Whisper Scoring for L2 Speech Using Forced alignment with the Italian Component of the ISLE corpus
Nicolas Ballier, Adrien Méli
- Investigating strategies for lexical complexity prediction in a multilingual setting using generative language models and supervised approaches
Abdelhak Kelious, Mathieu Constant, Christophe Coeur

Chair: David Alfter

16:30-17:00

- Leading by Example: The Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence to Create Pedagogically Suitable Example Sentences
Jasper Degraeuwe, Patrick Goethals

17:00-17:30

- Automatic Text Simplification: A Comparative Study in Italian for Children with Language Disorders
Francesca Padovani, Caterina Marchesi, Eleonora Pasqua, Martina Galletti, Daniele Nardi

Friday 25 October - Evening Social events

18:15-19:00 Reception at “Hotel de ville” townhall

19:30 Evening dinner at the restaurant “La Taverne de la Marine”

Saturday 26 October 2024 – Morning sessions

8:45-9:00 Coffee and tea

Chair: Thomas Gaillat

9:00-10:00 Keynote speaker

Kristopher Kyle – Leveraging LLMs in computer assisted language learning: A call for construct validity

In this talk, Kristopher Kyle provides a brief overview of the use of natural language processing in research related to language learning and assessment over the past 50 years, culminating in the advent of large language models (LLMs). He then briefly discusses some

recent (mis)uses of LLMs in language learning and assessment research. He argues that while some black-box LLM-based systems can achieve results with reasonable metrics, such systems tend to have particularly weak validity arguments. He then argues for the development and use of LLM-based systems that increase the construct validity of common CALL applications such as automated evaluation and feedback systems and introduce some working examples of these systems.

10:00-10:15 Coffee break, main hall

Chair: Serge Bibauw

10:15-10:45

- Opinions Are Buildings: Metaphors in Secondary Education Foreign Language Learning
Anna Huelsing, Andrea Horbach

10:45-11:15

- Sailing through multiword expression identification with Wiktionary and Linguse: A case study of language learning
Till Überrück-Fries, Agata Savary, Agnieszka Dryjańska

11:15-11:30 Coffee break, main hall

Chair: Nicolas Ballier

11:30-12:00

- Evaluating Automatic Pronunciation Scoring with Crowd-sourced Speech Corpus Annotations
Nils Hjortnaes, Daniel Dakota, Sandra Kübler, Francis Tyers

12:00-12:30

- Potential of ASR for the study of L2 learner corpora
Sarra El Ayari, Zhongjie Li

12:30-12:40 Closing and next edition of NLP4CALL

LUNCH

15:00 Social event

Guided tour of Rennes

Comité d'organisation

Thomas Gaillat, Cyriel Mallart, Fabienne Moreau, Griselda Drouet, Jen-Yu Li

Comité scientifique

Alfter David - University of Gothenburg (Sweden), Ar Rouz David - Université Rennes 2 (France), Ballier Nicolas - Université Paris Cité (France), Balvet Antonio - Université de Lille (France), Belan Sophie - Université de Nantes (France), Bexte Marie - FernUniversität in Hagen (Germany), Bibauw Serge - Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium), Caines

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