Question classification in German dialogues

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Punct.

Simplified. Pred. 1 Pred. 2

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Overview

Goal: Identify and classify questions in German dialogues

(spoken or written)

Approach: Reuse / adapt dialogue-act classification approaches

from English

Status: In-progress OS project, all input welcome!







→ Is it a question?





GermanQuAD

Fully annotaated datasets

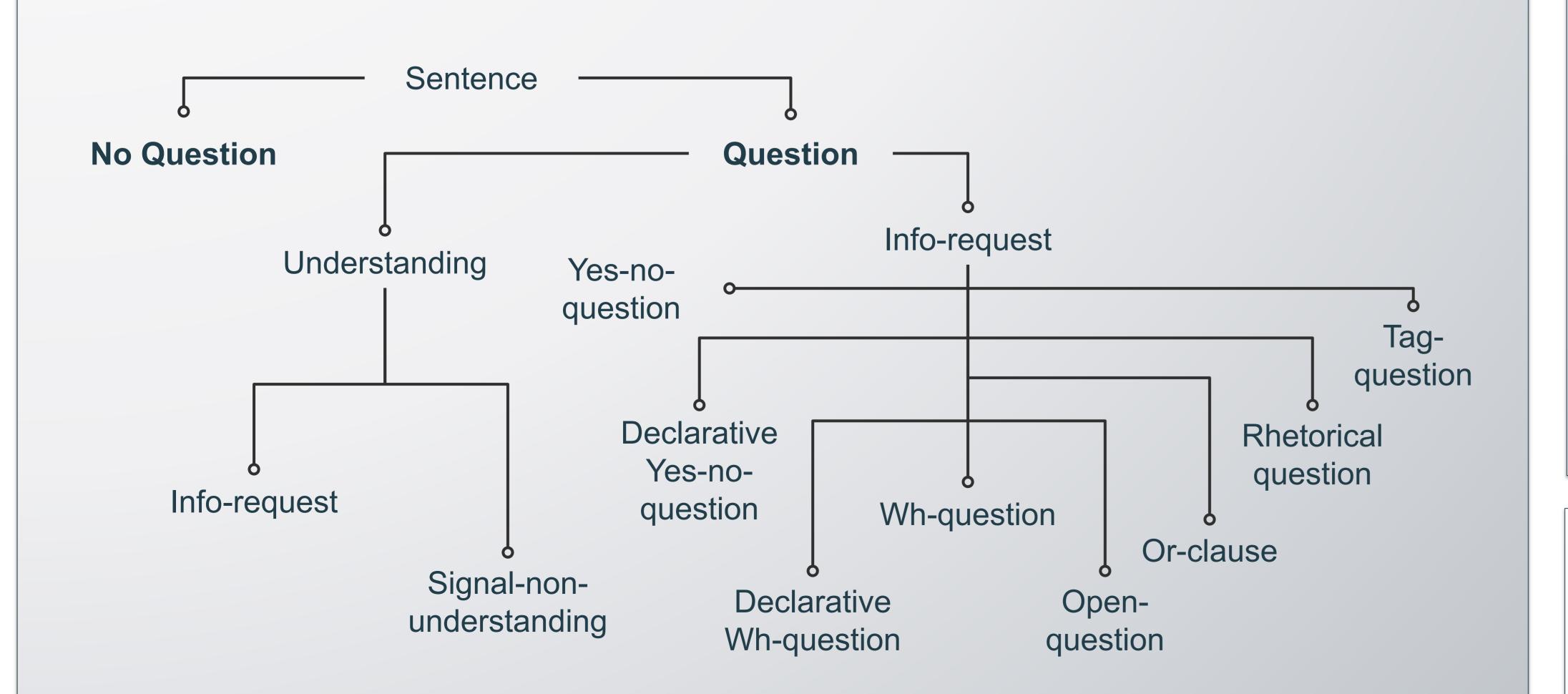
Verbmobil

Auto-labeling

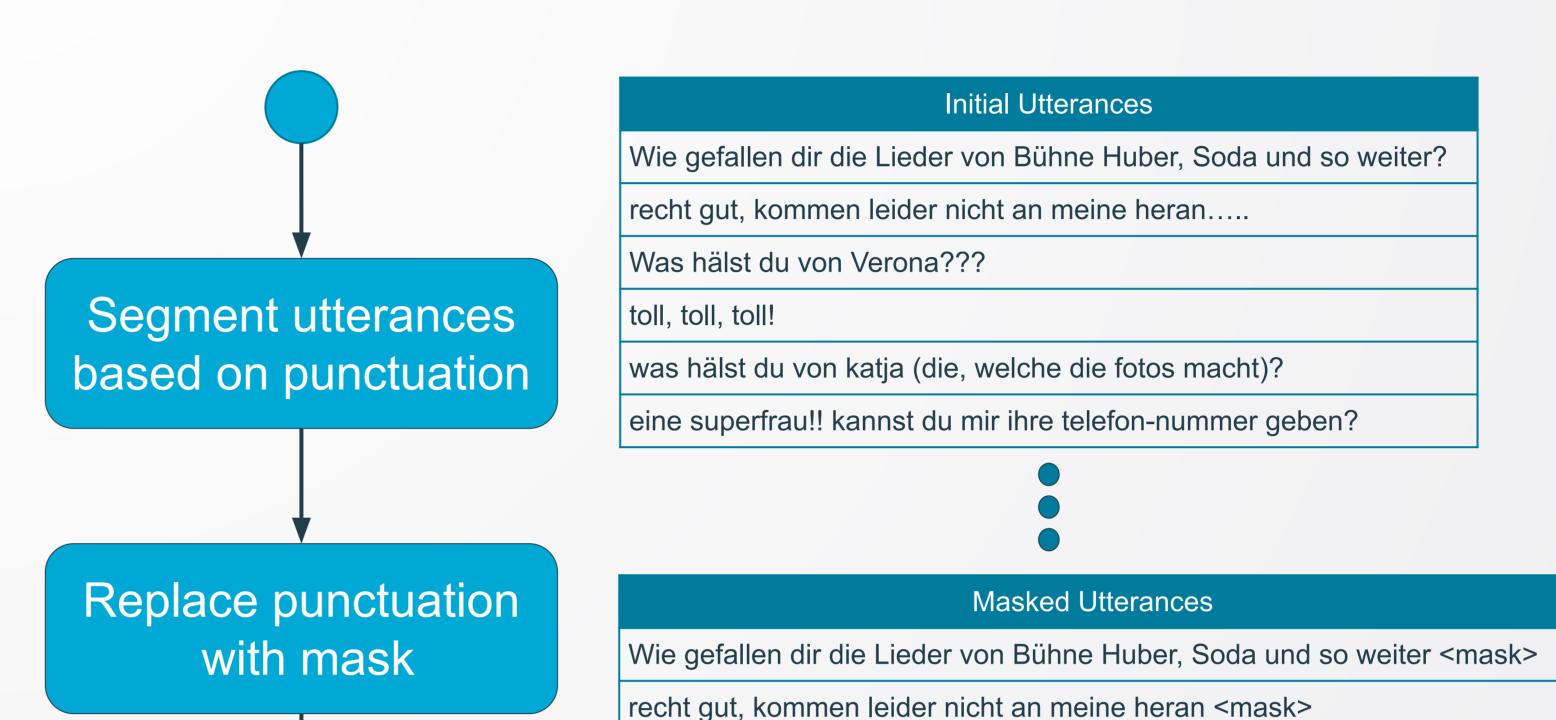
Training -

Classification

Question or not and its type



1st step: Is this a question, GottBERT?



| Was hälst du von Verona <mask></mask> |
|--|
| toll, toll, toll <mask></mask> |
| was hälst du von katja (die, welche die fotos macht) <mask></mask> |
| eine superfrau <mask></mask> |
| kannst du mir ihre telefon-nummer geben <mask></mask> |

| Convert results to binary classification | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | |

Predict punctuation

using GottBERT

| Masked Utterances | Ground truth | Prediction |
|---|--------------|------------|
| Wie gefallen dir die Lieder von Bühne Huber, Soda und so weiter <mask></mask> | q | q |
| recht gut, kommen leider nicht an meine heran <mask></mask> | nq | nq |
| Was hälst du von Verona <mask></mask> | q | q |
| toll, toll, toll <mask></mask> | nq | nq |
| was hälst du von katja (die, welche die fotos macht) <mask></mask> | q | nq |
| eine superfrau <mask></mask> | nq | nq |
| kannst du mir ihre telefon-nummer geben <mask></mask> | q | q |

Results - Confusion Matrix

| | | Actual class | |
|-----------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | | Question | No question |
| Predicted | Question | 22% 7'892 | 2% 593 |
| class | No question | 13% 4'677 | 63% 22'343 |

- Results shown here only for present (as opposed to assumed) punctuation
- Matrix refers to sentences with ≥ 3 tokens
- Only marginal improvement for ≥ 4 tokens
- Including assumed punctuation and all sentence sizes yields ~90% accuracy
- False negatives ambivalent also for humans

Ongoing work and latest results

https://github.com/Contexity/question-classifier-german