

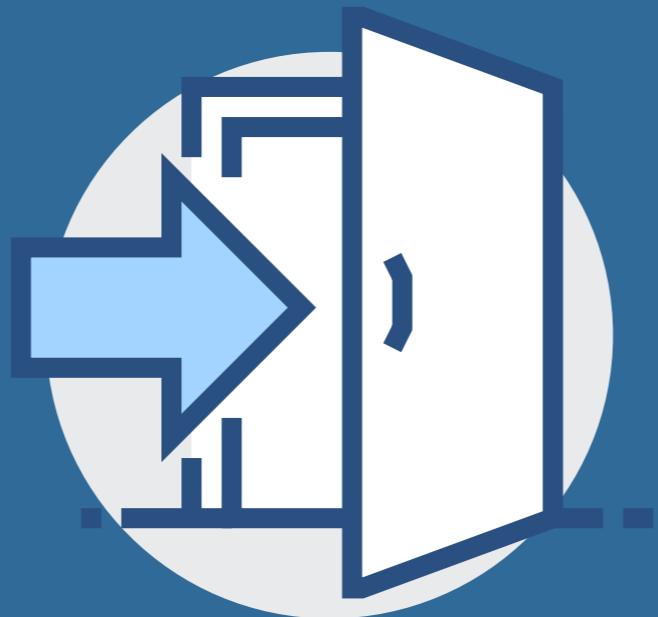


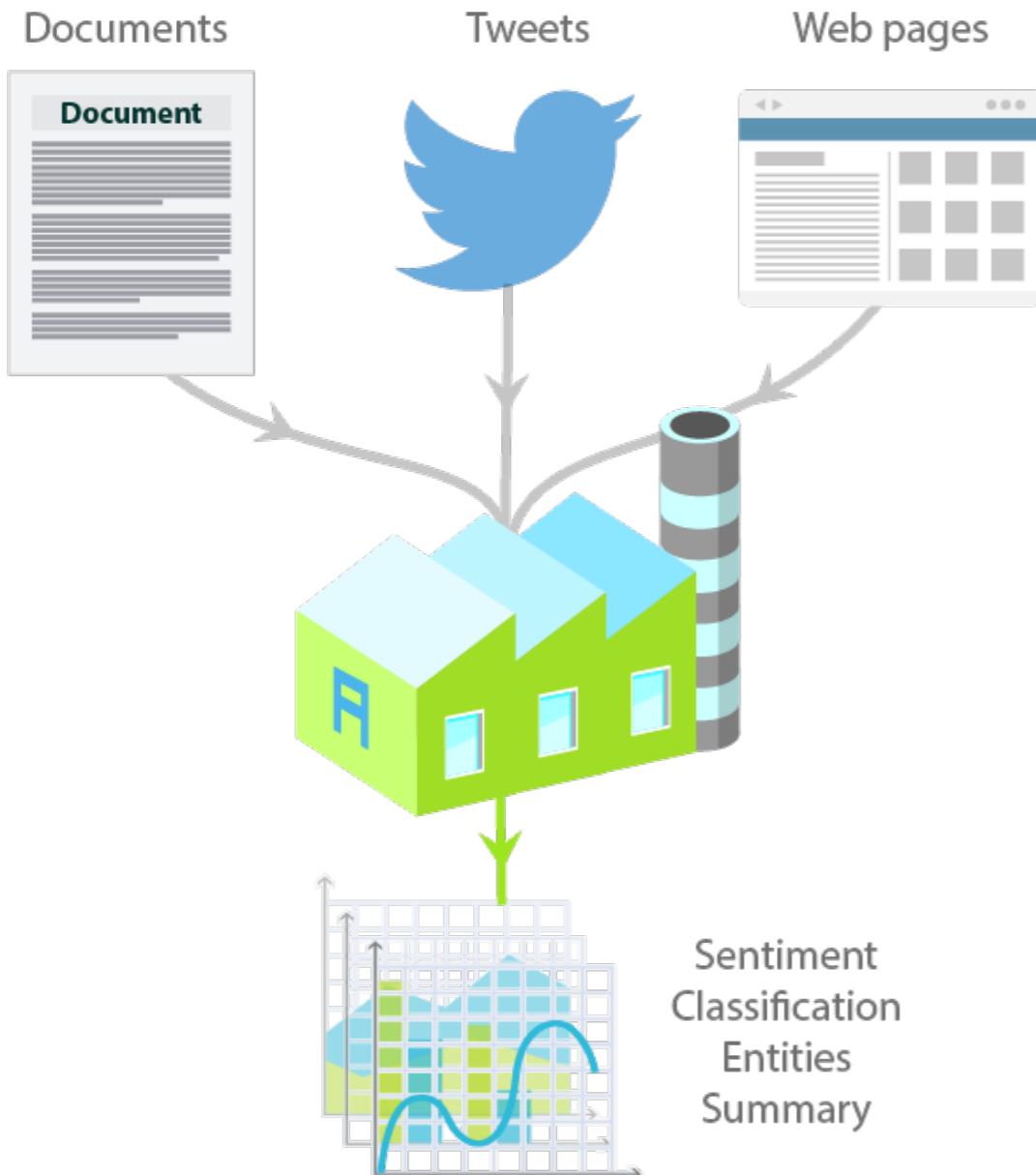
Using NLP to understand  
textual content at scale

Parsa Ghaffari, CEO & Founder

[aylien.com](http://aylien.com) / @\_aylien

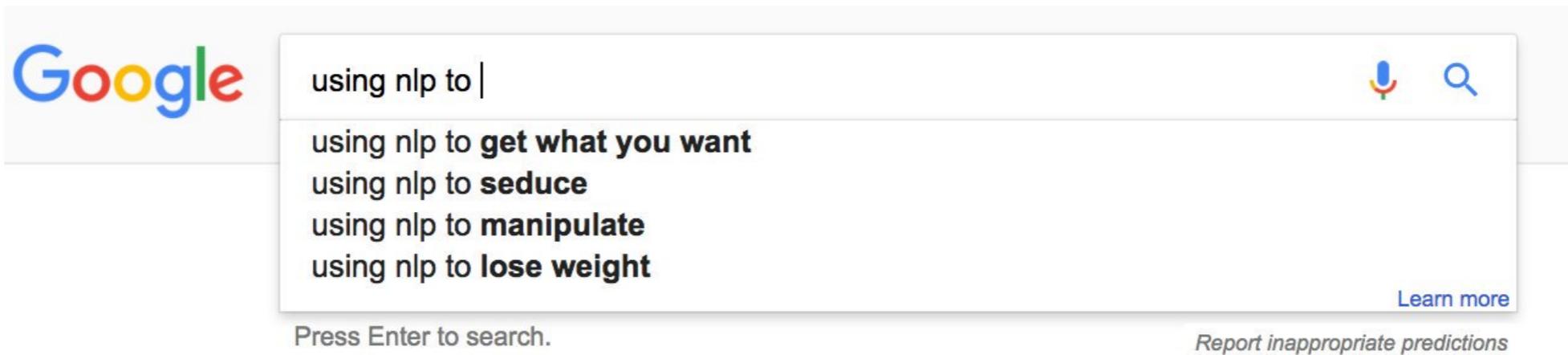
# Introduction



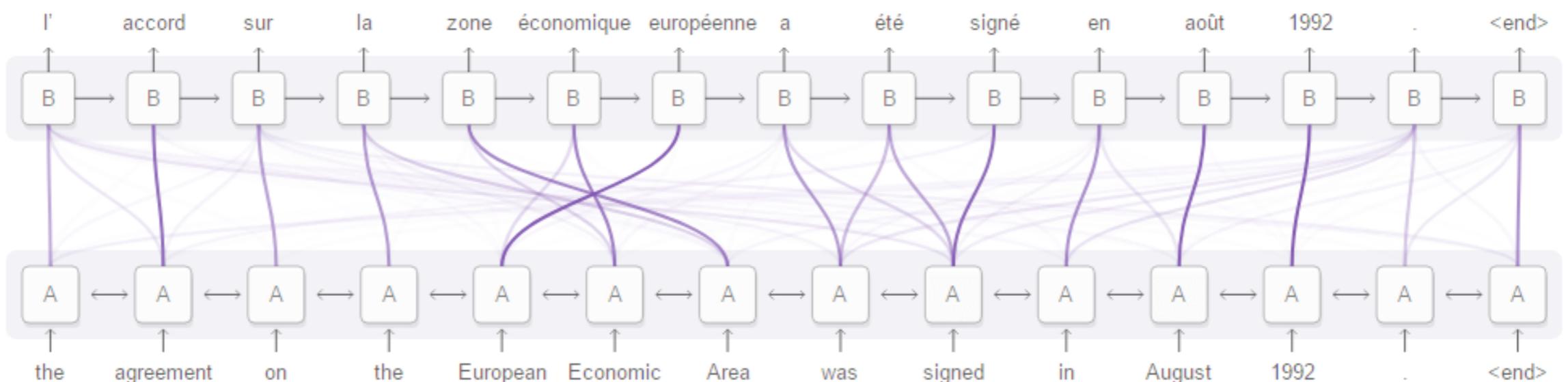
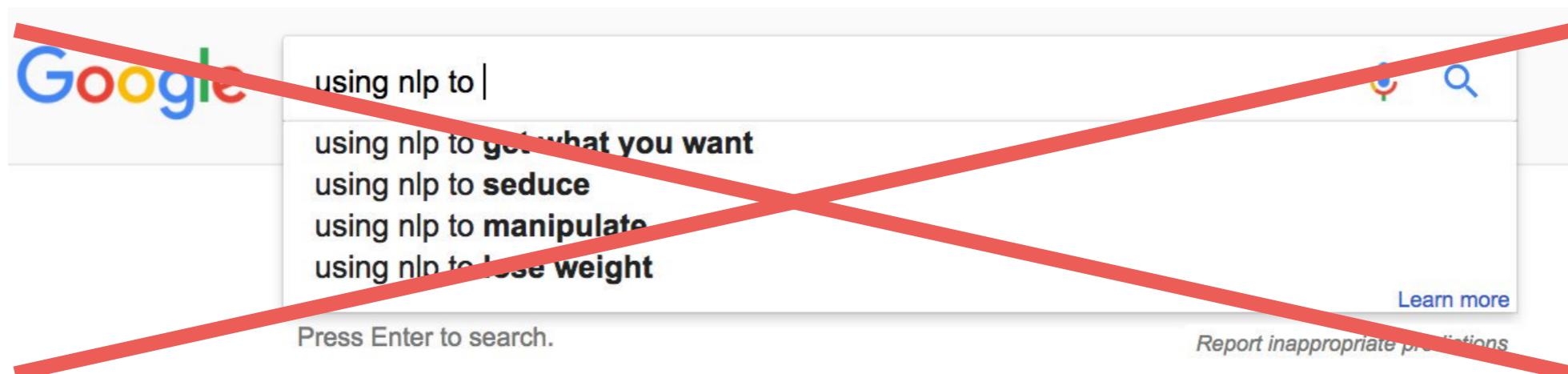


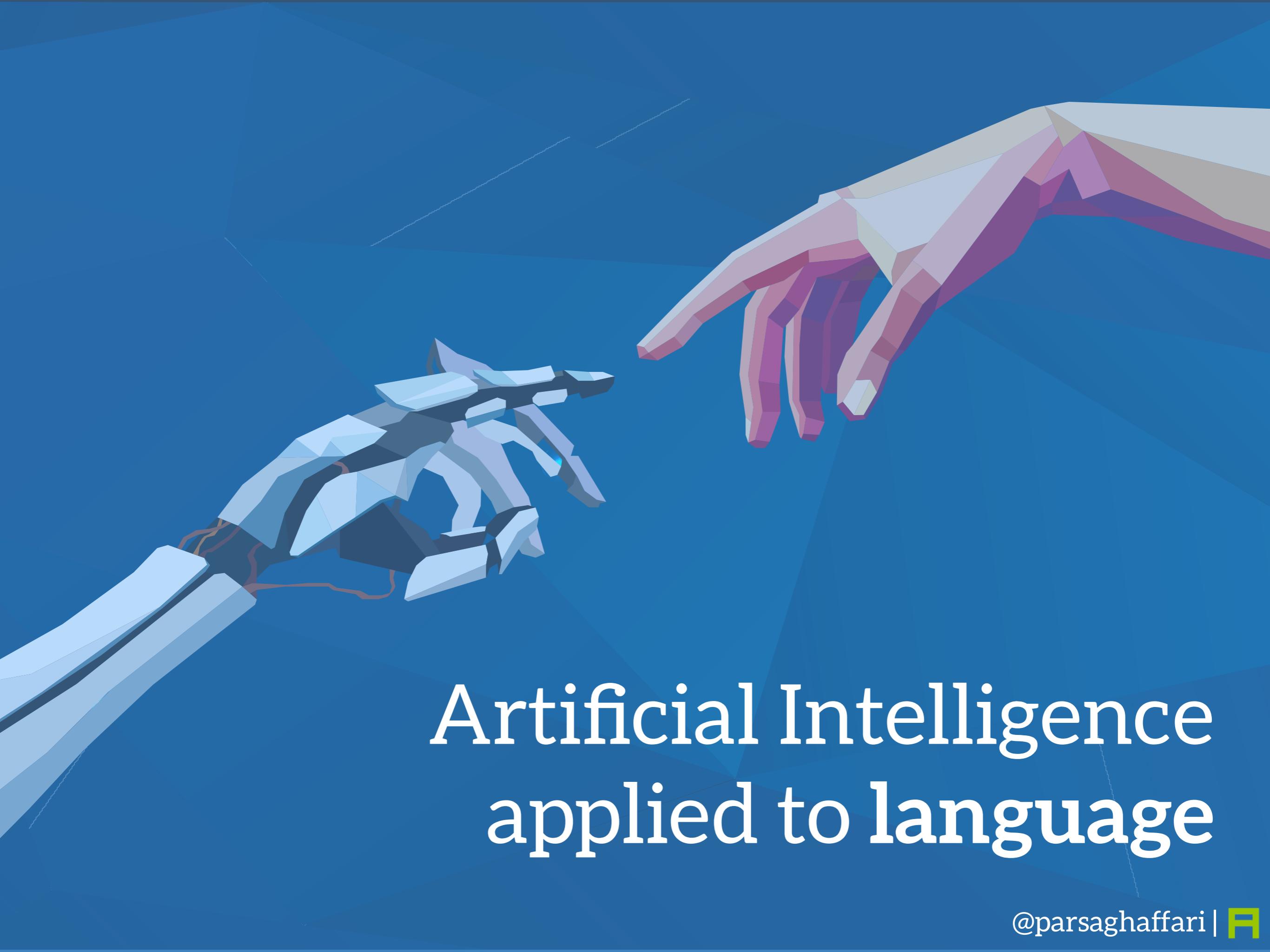
AYLIEN is a platform for aggregating large volumes of textual content and analyzing and understanding it using NLP.

# What is NLP?



# What is NLP not?





Artificial Intelligence  
applied to language

# Why NLP?

Language is a proxy to people's thoughts, emotions and feelings, and intentions



We can understand people by understanding language

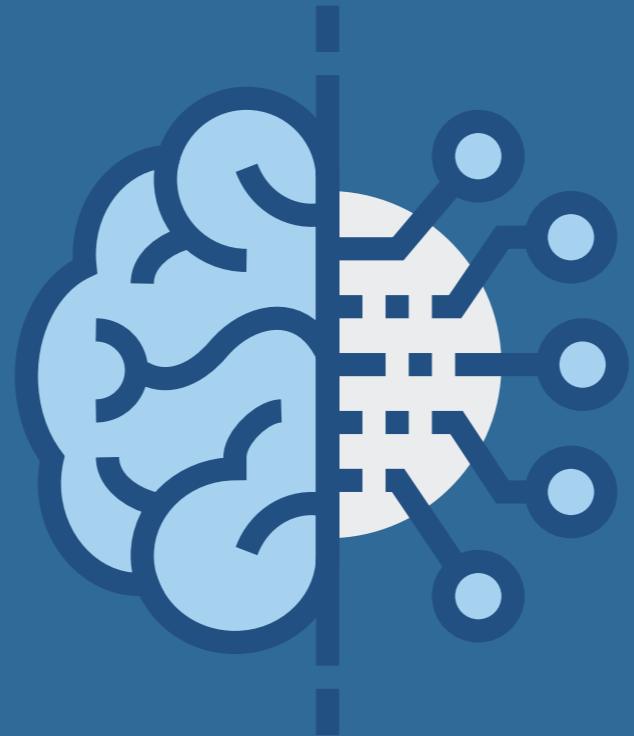


Computers can help people accomplish things more efficiently, if they understand language



Wildly applicable technology capable of creating \$B's in value

# Challenges of NLP



# Challenge #1

## The inherent complexity of language

What does it mean when someone says:  
“I made her duck”?

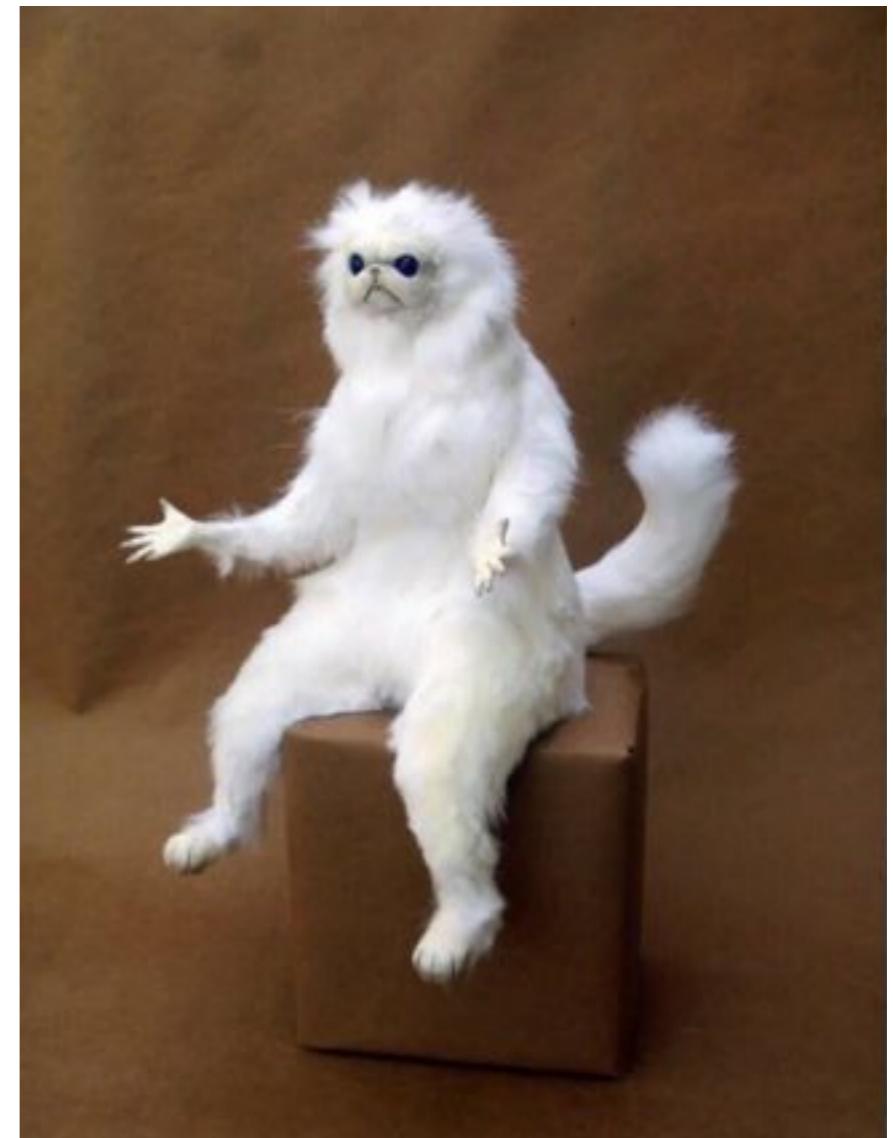
How many distinct interpretations can you count?

# Challenge #1

## The inherent complexity of language

“I made her duck” could be interpreted as:

- I cooked a duck for her
- I cooked a duck belonging to her
- I created a duck for her
- I created a duck that now belongs to her
- I caused her to lower her head
- I turned her into a duck (!)



## Challenge 1:

# Complexity of Language



## Challenge 1:

# Complexity of Language

And it's not just English!

- **German:** “Donaudampfschifffahrtsgesellschaftskapitän” (5 “words”)
- **Chinese:** 50,000 different characters (2-3k to read a newspaper)
- **Japanese:** 3 writing systems
- **Thai:** Ambiguous word boundaries and sentence concepts
- **Slavic:** Different word forms depending on gender, case, tense

Challenge 1:

# Complexity of Language

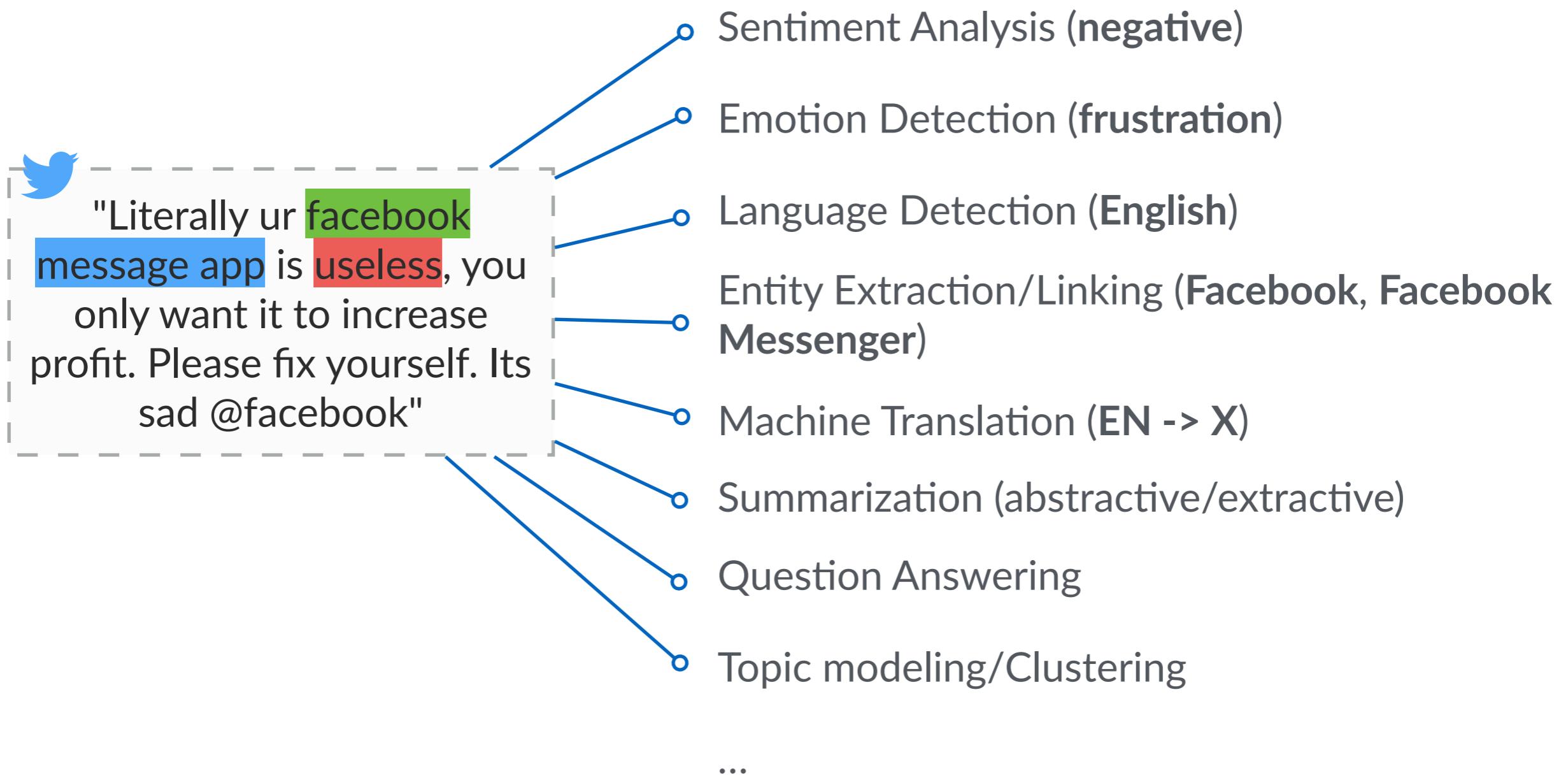
**Machine Learning** is the most suitable toolbox available to us for dealing with this complexity.

However, there are still challenges:

1. Variety of tasks
2. Diversity of domains
3. Data preparation
4. Model training
5. Model evaluation
6. Workflow issues

## Challenge 1.1:

# Variety of Tasks



## Challenge 1.2:

# Diversity of Domains

Genres & sources:

- News articles
- Social media updates
- Reviews
- ...

Languages & dialects:

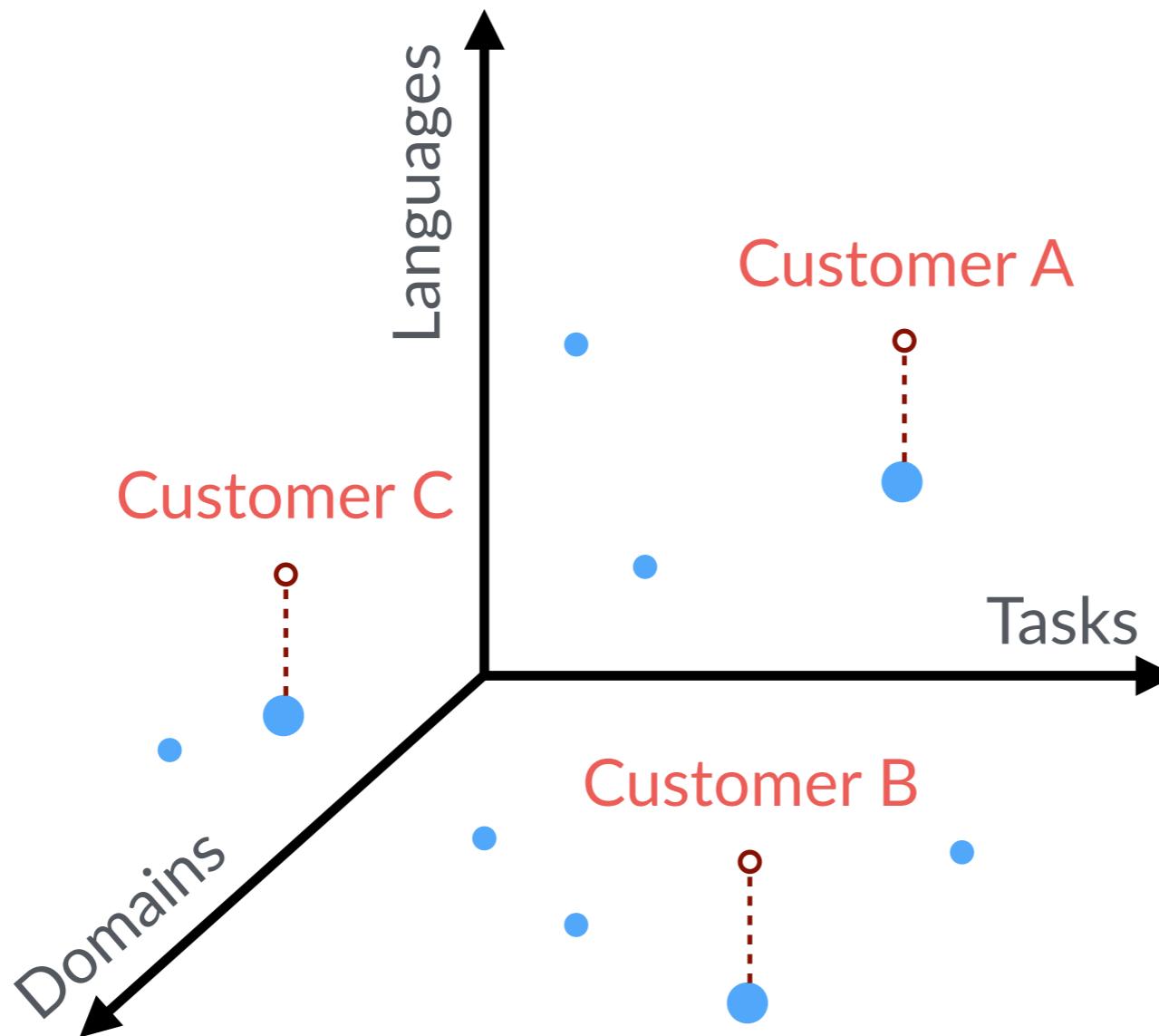
- English:
  - British:
    - Northern:
      - Cheshire
      - ...
      - ...
    - American:
      - ...
      - ...
      - ...

Other types of domains:

- Industries
- Users
- Time
- ...

Challenges 1.1-2:

# Tasks, Domains & Languages



### Challenge 1.3:

# Data Preparation

- Gathering data for training/testing
- Defining labels/a taxonomy
- Cleaning up the data
- Getting the data in the right format
- Annotating the data
- Splitting the data

## Challenge 1.4:

# Model Training

- Selecting the right algorithm/NN architecture
- Picking the right representations (e.g. pre-trained word embeddings)
- Hyper-parameter tuning
- Pre-training on other data (e.g. pre-training on sentiment data before emotion detection)
- Domain adaptation/transfer learning

Challenge 1.5:

# Model Evaluation

- Picking/defining the right metrics
- Creating a test set to evaluate models on
- Comparing models
- Qualitative evaluation
- Explaining predictions

# Workflow-related Issues

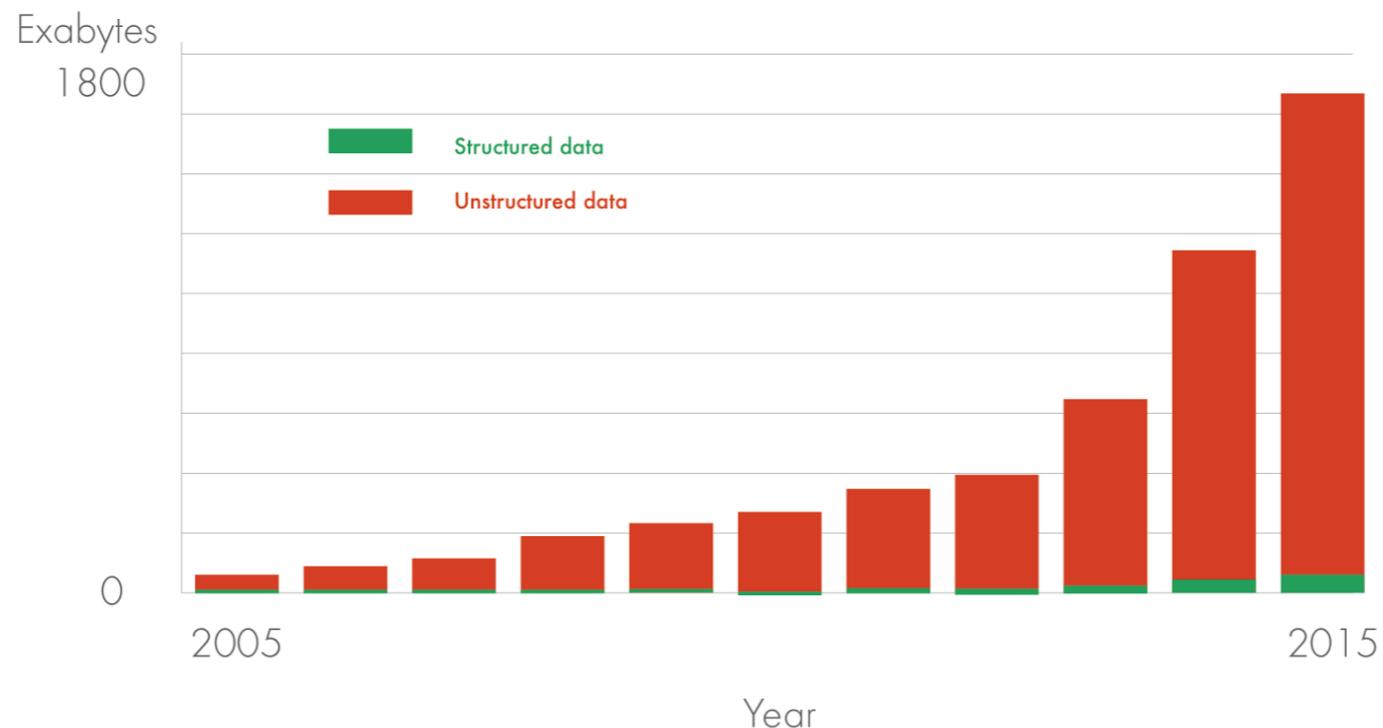
- Continuously updating models and getting feedback
- Active learning
- Domain adaptation
- Dataset visualization
- Consuming trained models

# Challenge #2

The scale and production rate of unstructured data

## The Rise of Unstructured Data

Merrill Lynch: Unstructured data accounts for 80%+ of all data in organizations and 95% of data generated daily online.



Research from International Data Corporation (IDC) shows that unstructured content accounts for 90% of all digital information.

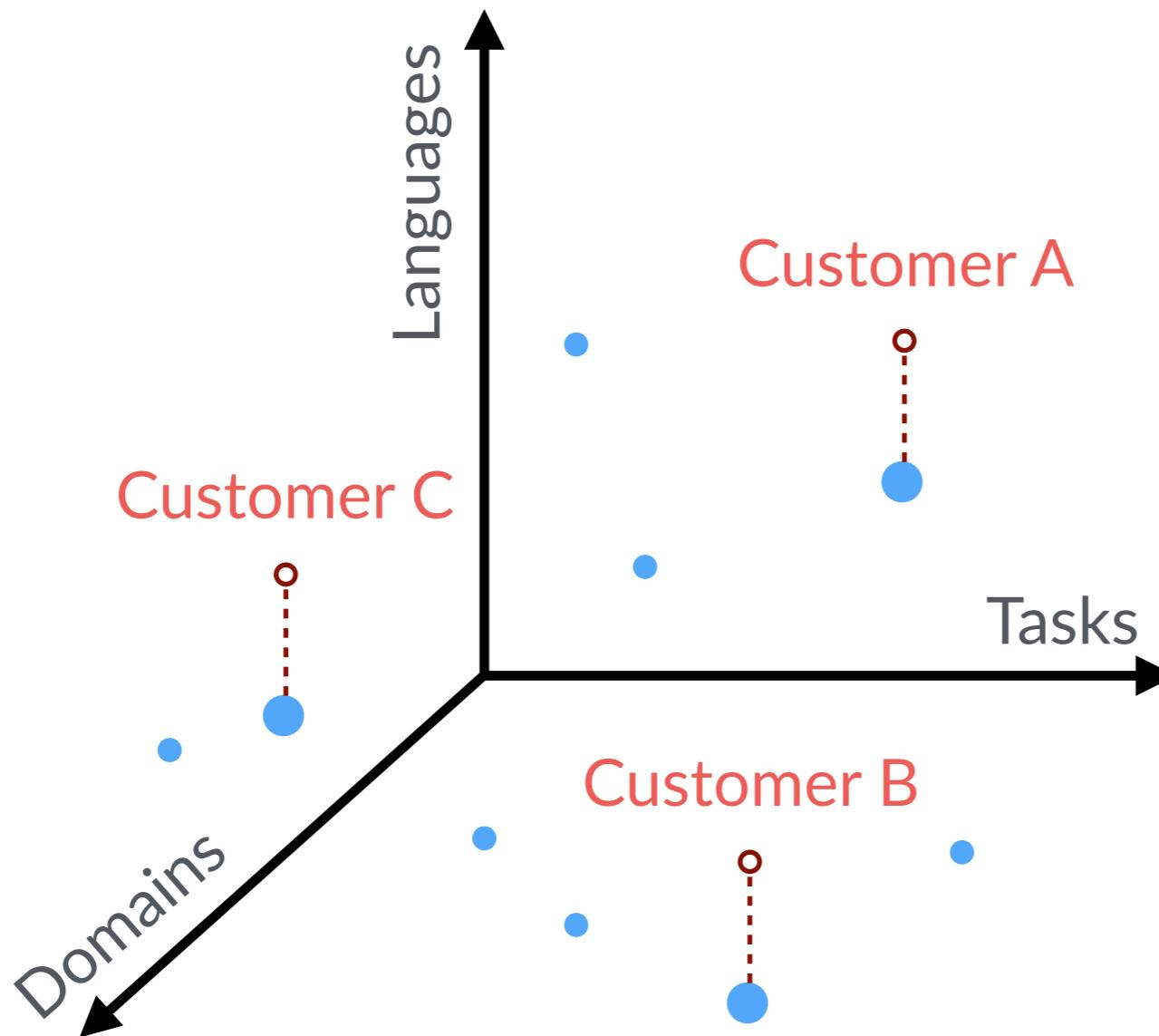
“More content was uploaded yesterday than any one human could ever consume in their entire life.” - Condé Nast

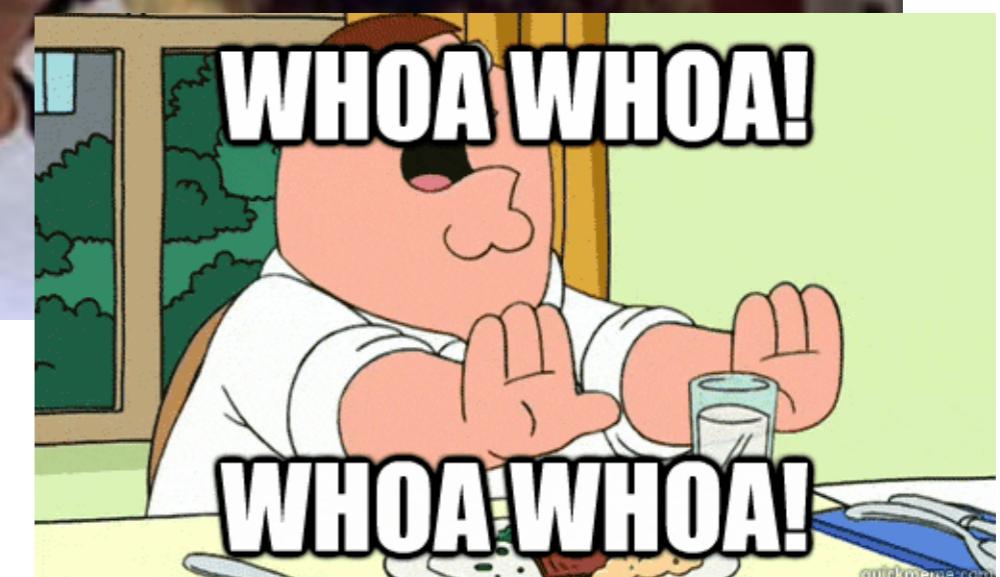
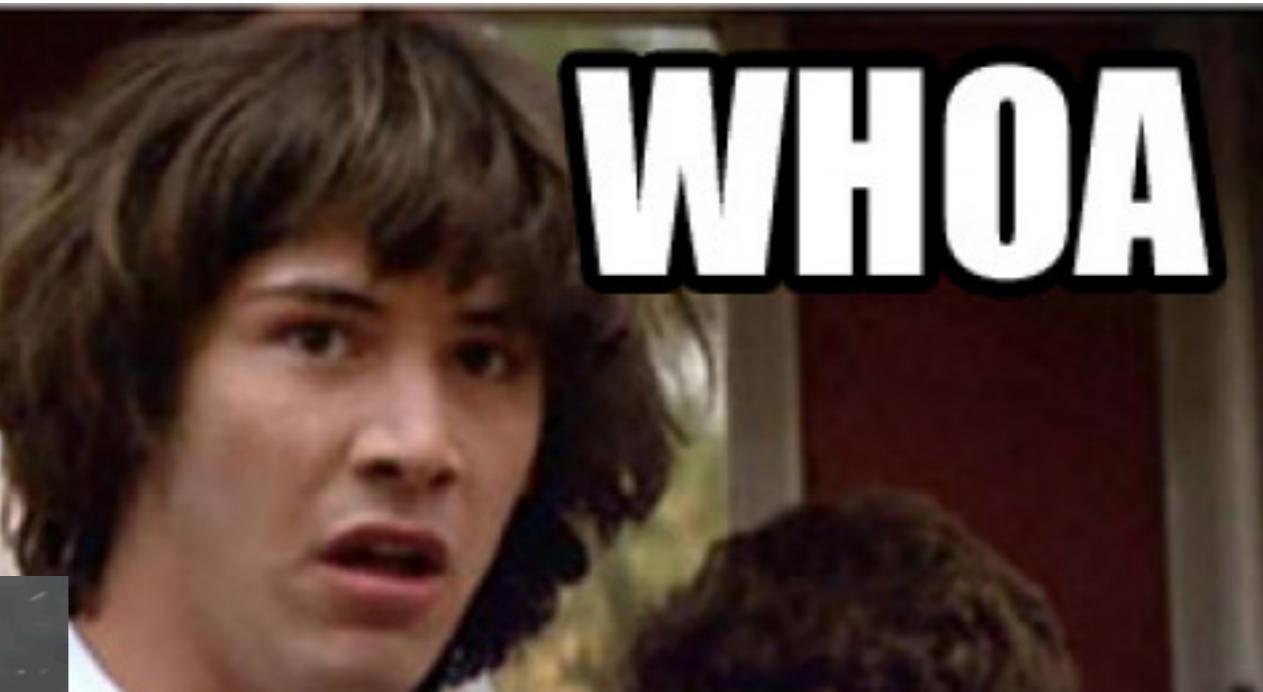
# Our Solution



Challenges 1.1-2:

# Tasks, Domains & Languages





# Text Analysis Platform (TAP)<sup>β</sup>

An in-browser environment for building **custom NLP models**



# Build Datasets

From CSV files, using our **Knowledge Base** or by forking other datasets

The screenshot shows the TAP (Tool for Analytic Processing) interface for building datasets. At the top, there's a navigation bar with tabs for TAP, Explore, My Datasets, My Models, Jobs (0), user profile (parsa), and a help icon.

**Dataset Preview**

The preview area contains the following text:

- The following table shows a few sample rows of your Dataset.
- Please choose which columns should be treated as Labels and which should be treated as Documents. Once you're done, hit "Convert to Dataset" and we'll create your new Dataset.
- Quick tip: You also need to tell TAP whether or not it should ignore the header row in your file using the header row switch.

**Column Role**

<input type="radio"/> Attribute	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Document	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Collection	<input type="radio"/> Attribute	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Label	<input type="radio"/> Attribute
---------------------------------	---	---	---------------------------------	--	---------------------------------

**Column Data Type**

String	String	String	String	String	String
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

**Header row?**

	other_topic	resolution_topics	gender	name	Resolution_Category	retweet_
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Read moore books, read less facebook.	Eat healthier	female	Dena_Marina	Health & Fitness	0
	Humor about Personal Growth and Interests Resolutions		female	ninjagirl325	Humor	1
		Be More Confident	male	RickyDelReyy	Personal Growth	0

**Help Morespread.net**

# Build Datasets

From **CSV** files, using our **Knowledge Base** or by forking other datasets

The screenshot shows the parsa dataset management interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for TAP, Explore, My Datasets, My Models, Jobs (0), User (parsa), and Help. The main page displays the details for the "parsa / IAB-tier-1" dataset.

**Dataset Details:**

- 31 labels**
- 189,256 documents (100% no collection)**
- 189,256 docs in 31 labels**

**Sample document:**

Allen-Shaw Reading Room Mission Statement: To provide children in rural Jamaica with knowledge through books and cutting edge computer technology. To give them a window of opportunity to life beyond their limited boundaries and give them desire and hope to strive for excellence.nWith the popular icons of the youths today [Show more...](#)

**Dataset Structure:**

- IAB-tier-1
  - IAB1-Arts\_Entertainment
    - 589.txt
    - Cinema
    - Television
    - IAB2-Automotive
    - IAB3-Business
    - IAB4-Careers
    - IAB5-Education
    - IAB6-Family Parenting

**File Preview:** 589.txt (Preview file, txt file)

**Metadata:**

- Documents count: 10000
- Label(s): IAB1-Arts\_Entertainment
- Collection: No collection

A blue speech bubble icon is located in the bottom right corner of the interface.

# Build Datasets

From **CSV** files, using our **Knowledge Base** or by forking other datasets

## Knowledge Base

Amazon reviews ▾ camera AND lens AND overall:5

reviewer\_id [string] text [string] overall [long] summary [string] class\_labels [string] version [string] review\_time [date] id [long]

You can import all results or select some specific rows to import. Select rows by clicking on each row.

Text	Reviewer Id	Overall	Summary	Class Labels	Version	Review Time
Best <b>lens</b> for the money. I keep this <b>lens</b> on my <b>camera</b> 90% of the time. Great <b>lens</b> for starting photography	A3USKITGRX OIVG	5	Amazing <b>lens</b>	Electronics	1.0	2012-11-28T00:00:00..
Fotodiox <b>Lens</b> Mount Adapter -- Nikon <b>Lens</b> to Sony NEX E-Series <b>Camera</b> arrived on time as advertised ...	ASJ7QB66JU 4RL	5	Fotodiox <b>Lens</b>	Electronics	1.0	2013-08-02T00:00:00..
<b>Lens</b> is more compact than I expected. This is a great all around <b>camera lens</b> !	A1Z35O63NE 2BZE	5	This is a great all ...	Electronics	1.0	2014-06-27T00:00:00..
My first time have a <b>lens</b> of this quality. Great <b>lens</b> to keep dirt and other items from <b>camera lens</b> ...	A1EMTRTDM XLVB	5	Great <b>Lens</b> !...	Electronics	1.0	2013-07-15T00:00:00..
The <b>camera lens</b> is just perfect. It replaced a tamaron <b>lens</b> of the same specifications. I	A3VBPLKSRH	5	<b>Camera</b> <b>lens</b>	Electronics	1.0	2011-12-24T00:00:00

< Previous Results from 1 to 10 of 65,637 Next >

Import documents into positive Start 10000 Import 10,000 documents

Close

# Train Models

Compare various models/parameters and pick the best one

TAP Explore My Datasets My Models Jobs 0 parsa ?

## My Models

+ Train Model

Search for Models...

Model	Dataset	Evaluation	Status	Updated	Production	Actions
political tweets_fork1_model1	political tweets_fork1	Accuracy Recall Precision F1	Running (sandbox)	4 hours ago	<input type="checkbox"/>	<button>Evaluate</button> ...
Airline Sentiment Analysis_for... 🚀	Airline Sentiment Analysis_for...	Accuracy Recall Precision F1	Running (production)	8 days ago	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<button>Evaluate</button> ...
Airline Sentiment Analysis_for... 🚀	Airline Sentiment Analysis_for...	Accuracy Recall Precision F1	Running (production)	a month ago	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<button>Evaluate</button> ...
twitter-sentiment_fork4_fork1...	twitter-sentiment_fork4_fork1	Accuracy Recall Precision F1	Stopped	3 months ago	<input type="checkbox"/>	<button>Evaluate</button> ...
twitter-sentiment_fork4_fork1...	twitter-sentiment_fork4_fork1	Accuracy Recall Precision F1	Stopped	4 months ago	<input type="checkbox"/>	<button>Evaluate</button> ...
twitter-...	twitter-	Accuracy Recall Precision F1	Stopped	4 months ago	<input type="checkbox"/>	<button>Evaluate</button> ...

# Evaluate Models

Understand different aspects of each model

The screenshot displays the Amazon SageMaker Studio interface for evaluating machine learning models. At the top, there are navigation tabs: TAP, Explore, My Datasets, and My Models. The header also includes a user profile for 'presa' and a help icon.

The main content area shows the evaluation results for a model named "HILLARYORTRUMP\_FORK (1)\_MODEL1". The status is listed as "RUNNING (SANDBOX)".

### Evaluation Results

#### Model performance

Here you can see various metrics related to your Model's performance.

Accuracy	Precision <a href="#">i</a>	Recall <a href="#">i</a>	F1 <a href="#">i</a>
0.899	0.903	0.899	0.899

Label	Precision	Recall	F1
hillaryclinton	0.864	0.947	0.904
realdonaldtrump	0.941	0.850	0.894

#### Confusion Matrix

The Confusion Matrix shows us how the Model performs by showing the number of correct and incorrect predictions for each Label.

Real Labels	Predicted Labels	
	hillaryclinton	realdonaldtrump
hillaryclinton	305	17
realdonaldtrump	48	273

A small circular icon with a speech bubble symbol is located in the bottom right corner.

# Evaluate Models

**Explain** predictions made by a model

TAP Explore My Datasets My Models Jobs 0 parsa ?

## Explanations

Number of Features: 6 Number of Samples: 1000 Number of Labels: 1 Explain

**Predicted labels**  
The labels predicted by the Model for this document

hillaryclinton  
realdonaldtrump

**Text with highlighted words**  
Your input document, with words that are associated with a label highlighted

If the young women of this country have Donald Trump as their president, what will they think of themselves? <https://t.co/1lrjWddzy>

**Word-label associations**  
Words in your input document that are associated with one or more labels

Label	Score
NOT hillaryclinton	9.4
hillaryclinton	8
president	4.5
women	4.4
young	3.7
Trump	2.9

https  
president  
Donald  
Trump  
young

A small blue speech bubble icon is in the bottom right corner.

# Use Models

Deploy the best version of your model to production, and use it as an API

The screenshot shows the TAP (Taycan AI Platform) interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for TAP, Explore, My Datasets, and My Models. On the right side of the navigation bar are links for Jobs (0), a user profile for 'parsa', and a help icon.

The main content area displays a deployed model named 'parsa / sentiment\_fork (1)\_model1'. The model has a rating of 5 stars. Below the name, there are buttons for 'View Evaluation' (with a test tube icon), 'Retrain' (with a circular arrow icon), and a three-dot menu icon.

Under the model name, there are tabs for 'Dataset' (selected, showing 'sentiment\_fork (1)'), 'API calls' (1), and a button to 'Make it public'. There is also a link to 'Private'.

A descriptive text below the tabs states: "This is a sentiment analysis model for tweets." followed by a link icon.

Below this, there are buttons for 'sentiment-analysis' and 'Manage tags'.

**Usage details**

**Endpoint**: `http://api.tap/aylien.com/v1/models/2ee632e2-81b9-43fc-bf38-662c772cdf2d` (with 'Copy' and 'Edit' buttons)

**API Key**: `814c6cb9f0bf4702aebf61f3c1596171`

**Example request:**

```
curl -X POST \
  -H "x-aylien-tap-application-key: 814c6cb9f0bf4702aebf61f3c1596171" \
  --data-urlencode "text=RT @vancitynomad: Thanks SD Carl and crew for the great flight ac3 to Narita sept11 @MomonaKomagata @AirC \
  http://api.tap/aylien.com/v1/models/2ee632e2-81b9-43fc-bf38-662c772cdf2d
```

**Model performance**

# Leverage the Marketplace

Share your **models** and **datasets** with other users, or leverage theirs

A screenshot of the Aylien Marketplace interface. The top navigation bar includes links for TAP, Explore, My Datasets, My Models, Jobs (with 2 notifications), user profile (parsa), and a help icon.

## Datasets

Here you can see a list of Datasets that other users have made public. Take a closer look at any Dataset by clicking on it or copy any Dataset for your own use using the Fork button.

<b>Emojis</b> robson@aylien.com Various emojis and messages associated with them.  ⌚ Updated 5 hours ago  <a href="#">Inspect</a> <a href="#">Fork</a> <span>6</span>	<b>JIRA Tickets</b> robson@aylien.com A dataset consisting of different categories of JIRA tickets (bugs, feature requests, etc) along with thousands of tickets for each category.  ⌚ Updated 8 days ago  <a href="#">Inspect</a> <a href="#">Fork</a> <span>8</span>	<b>Offensive Speech</b> robson@aylien.com Social media posts and messages categorized based on their offensiveness.  ⌚ Updated 24 days ago  <a href="#">Inspect</a> <a href="#">Fork</a> <span>5</span>
<b>Large Movie Review</b> robson@aylien.com A large collection of positive and negative movie reviews.  ⌚ Updated a month ago  <a href="#">Inspect</a> <a href="#">Fork</a> <span>7</span>	<b>Rotten Tomatoes Phrases</b> robson@aylien.com A collection of short phrases about movies, with positive, neutral and negative annotations.  ⌚ Updated a month ago  <a href="#">Inspect</a> <a href="#">Fork</a> <span>1</span>	<b>Political Ideology</b> robson@aylien.com A dataset consisting of 4,062 sentences annotated for political ideology—2025 liberal sentences, 1701 conservative sentences, and 600 neutral sentences.  ⌚ Updated a month ago  <a href="#">Inspect</a> <a href="#">Fork</a> <span>4</span>

Navigation buttons at the bottom: Previous, Next, and a search/magnifying glass icon.

# Key takeaways

- NLP brings us closer to people's thoughts, emotions and intentions => It has the potential to impact billions of people;
- We're not doing a great job at modeling the processes of which language is an output => We face the problem of too many <task, domain, language>s => Infinite room for research in this area;
- NLP(/ML) is not a one-size-fits-all problem => We need to rely on good engineering and products to fill the gap;

# Thank you!



[aylien.com](https://aylien.com)

We're hiring!  
[aylien.com/jobs](https://aylien.com/jobs)