

You can be Shakespeare!

A Case Study in Paraphrase Targeting Writing Styles

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ABSTRACT

We present initial investigation into the task of paraphrasing while targeting a particular writing style. The plays of William Shakespeare and their *modern translations* are used as a testbed for evaluating paraphrase systems targeting a specific style of writing. We demonstrate that existing evaluation metrics developed in the Machine Translation and Paraphrase communities are insufficient when the goal is to generate paraphrases targeting a specific style, and propose a series of new metrics to measure how closely the generated paraphrases match the target style. To the best of our knowledge no previous work has investigated the task of paraphrasing text with the goal of targeting a specific style of writing.

KEYWORDS: Paraphrase, Writing Style.

1 Introduction

- Define what we mean by writing styles.
- Define the paraphrasing task and describe previous work.
- Motivate the need for paraphrasing targeting a specific writing style (e.g. students of literature in a specific style, or helping people to understand documents written in an esoteric style).
 - Mention several domains where paraphrasing into/out of a specific writing style could be beneficial (e.g. technical manuals, legal documents, etc...)
- Summarize the main contributions.

2 Data

- Motivate the need for a benchmark dataset for evaluating the writing style paraphrase task
- Present Shakespeare / Modern translation data as a situation where we have parallel data available (useful for building models & evaluating automatic evaluation metrics)

3 Evaluation Metrics

- Describe the need for automatic evaluation metrics.
- Describe previously used evaluation metrics for paraphrase.
- Highlight problems with previous metrics when targeting a specific writing style.
- Propose new metrics.

4 Experiments

- Experimental setup.
- Present results from human evaluation comparing various systems.
- Analyze correlation between evaluation metrics and human judgements.

5 Related Work

- Kevin Knight's work on poetry generation
- Any work on writing style (e.g. classification)? Possibly cite work on author attribution...
- work on paraphrase evaluation metrics (David Chen, CCB, etc...)

6 Conclusions