

**Algorithm 2: natural language-driven templates** Algorithm 2 does not just fill in the question templates, but from a selected type of questions, fetches all axioms following the related axiom prerequisites, processes the contents of the ontology by fetching the vocabulary elements of a selected axiom, picks an appropriate variant of a template that the vocabulary can be used in, and makes some linguistic adaptation before generating the whole question.

The improvements incorporated were partially informed by the analysis of the sentences generated by Algorithm 1 that were evaluated as ‘bad’ questions. There are three major changes:

- using class expressions to generate questions, rather than only the declared domain and range of OPs. This generates more sensible questions because it only uses actually asserted and inferred knowledge.
- improving common grammar issues, availing of SimpleNLG and WordNet, for subject and verb agreement, gerund form generation, and article checking. Also, basic part of speech (POS) tagging (by using WordNet) for the classes and OPs was added, to get the appropriate form and to assist with selecting the appropriate template. For instance, with a template *Define a [Thing].*: if *[Thing]* is a noun, one can use this template, but if *[Thing]* is a verb, one has to take the template variant *Define [Thing].* and change the verb (infinitive form) to its gerund form. This improves the sentence from, e.g., “Define a eat” to the grammatically better “Define eating”.
- choosing the appropriate template for a given axiom by considering the POS of classes and OPs, and classifying the OP. We designed an algorithm based on an FSM that classifies the name given to an OP to find the appropriate template for an axiom, and provides the appropriate equivalent text. The FSM strategy is a sequence detector to determine the category of an OP and chunks it; e.g., *is-eatenBy* is transformed into a list of words (*is*, *eaten*, *by*). Then it detects each component, and from that, the POS of each token is obtained, and, finally, it generates the appropriate group of words, which will constitute the question: “is eaten by”. The algorithm considers 6 categories, listed and illustrated in Table 1. For instance, an OP that belongs to the category *OP\_IS\_PAST\_PART\_BY* cannot use the template *Does a [Thing] [ObjectProperty] a [Thing]?*. For example, for the axiom *Leaf  $\sqsubseteq \exists$ eaten-by.Giraffe*, the appropriate template is *Is a [Thing] [Object-Property] a [Thing]?* and a correct generated question would be “Is a leaf eaten by a giraffe?” rather than “Does a leaf eaten by a giraffe?”.

Regarding implementation, OWL API, Hermit Reasoner, SimpleNLG, and WordNet are used by the algorithm to generate questions.

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**Algorithm 2**

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1: Input: type of questions, ontology, set of templates
2: Fetch all asserted and inferred axioms that satisfies the axiom prerequisites for
   the selected type of questions using Reasoner
3: Select one axiom randomly
4: Fetch the vocabulary elements vocabularyelements of the selected axiom
5: Check the category of the Object Property (OP) of the selected axiom (Ta-
   ble 1 presents the categories and some examples)
6: Get the appropriate template and formatted vocabulary element (vocOP)
   with respect to the type of questions, the selected axiom and the category of the
   OP from the OP classification {The OP Classifier algorithm (included in the sup-
   plementary material) uses SimpleNLG to obtain the third-person singular in the
   present simple tense and the past participle form of a verb, and WordNet to check
   the POS (Part-Of-Speech) of words such as verb, noun, adjective and preposition)}
7: for each voc in vocabularyelements do
8:   voc = checkFormat(voc) {camel case, hyphen, underscore}
9:   if isClass(voc) == true then
10:     if POS(voc) == noun then
11:       if isCountableNoun(voc) == true then
12:         formattedVoc = addArticle(voc, "a"/"an"/"") {Choose the right ar-
           ticle a/an/(empty) for voc by using SimpleNLG, if the axiom contains
           an existential quantifier, do not insert any article}
13:       else
14:         formattedVoc = voc {formattedVoc is the formatted vocabulary ele-
           ment to fill in the appropriate template}
15:       end if
16:     else if POS(voc) == infinitive_verb then
17:       formattedVoc = gerundForm(voc) {By using SimpleNLG}
18:     else
19:       formattedVoc = voc {No transformation if voc is neither a noun nor an
         infinitive verb}
20:     end if
21:   else if isQuantifier(voc) == true then
22:     formattedVoc = addQuantifier(voc, "some"/"only") {for  $\exists$ , use "some";
       and for  $\forall$ , use "only"}
23:   else if isObjectProperty(voc) == true then
24:     formattedVoc = voc {No further transformation, here, voc = vocOP; it is
       already formatted by the Object Property Classifier}
25:   end if
26:   Fill in the selected appropriate template with formattedVoc {the formatted
     vocabulary element}
27: end for
28: Output: Question
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Table 1: Object Property classification with illustrative examples

| <b>Object property</b> | <b>Category</b>      | <b>Equivalent text</b>     |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| eats                   | OP_VERB              | eats                       |
| participate-in         | OP_VERB_PREP         | participates in            |
| hasState               | OP_HAS_NOUNS         | has a state                |
| isContiguousPortionOf  | OP_IS_NOUNS_PREP     | is a contiguous portion of |
| containedIn            | OP_IS_PAST_PART_PREP | is contained in            |
| eaten-by               | OP_IS_PAST_PART_BY   | is eaten by                |