

ACL 2018

**Multilingual Surface Realisation: Shared Task and Beyond**

**Proceedings of the Workshop**

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## Introduction

Natural Language Generation (NLG) is in the ascendant both as a stand-alone (data-to-text or text-to-text) task and as part of downstream applications such as abstractive summarization, dialogue-based interaction, question answering, etc. Only in 2017, three “deep” NLG shared tasks that focused on language generation from abstract semantic representations have been organized, although for English only. Surface realization is also a burning issue, in particular, in view of the recent creation of multilingual treebanks annotated with Universal Dependencies (UD). The Multilingual Surface Realization Shared Task (SR ’18), whose outcome is presented in these proceedings, targets surface realization from data released for the recent CoNLL shared task on multilingual parsing to UD. After the First Surface Realization Shared Task in 2011, which focused on English, SR ’18 is the second shared task on surface realization and the first to target multilingual input. 21 teams registered for SR ’18, and eight of them submitted outputs of their systems.

These proceedings include an overview of SR ’18 and the description of the eight participating systems, which will be presented at the workshop. We are pleased that for the workshop we could also win Hadar Shemtov, Head of NLG, dialog and summarization groups at Google Research, as invited speaker. We trust that overall the workshop will be a forum for fruitful discussion, and that it will give an impetus to further advances and to further shared tasks in the field.

The workshop organizers

June 2018



**Organizers:**

Anja Belz, University of Brighton, UK  
Bernd Bohnet, Google Research, UK  
Yvette Graham, Dublin City University, Ireland  
Simon Mille, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain  
Emily Pitler, Google Research, USA  
Leo Wanner, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain

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Kees Van Deemter, University of Aberdeen, UK  
Sina Zarrieß, University of Bielefeld, Germany  
Yue Zhang, Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore

**Invited Speaker:**

Hadar Shemtov, Google Research, USA



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## Workshop Program

- 8:45–9:00**     **Opening**
- 9:00–10:00**    **Invited Talk**  
Hadar Shemtov
- 10:00–10:30**    *The First Multilingual Surface Realisation Shared Task: Overview and Evaluation Results*  
Simon Mille, Anja Belz, Bernd Bohnet, Yvette Graham, Emily Pitler, Leo Wanner
- 10:30–11:00**    **Coffee break**
- 11:00–12:30**    **Oral session 1**
- 11:00–11:30    *BinLin: A Simple Method of Dependency Tree Linearization*  
Yevgeniy Puzikov and Iryna Gurevych
- 11:30–12:00    *IIT (BHU) Varanasi at MSR-SRST 2018: A Language Model Based Approach for Natural Language Generation*  
Shreyansh Singh, Ayush Sharma, Avi Chawla and A.K. Singh
- 12:00–12:30    *Surface Realization Shared Task 2018 (SR18): The Tilburg University Approach*  
Thiago Castro Ferreira, Sander Wubben and Emiel Kraemer
- 12:30–13:45**    **Lunch break**
- 13:45–14:15**    **Oral session 2**
- 13:45–14:15    *The OSU Realizer for SRST '18: Neural Sequence-to-Sequence Inflection and Incremental Locality-Based Linearization*  
David King and Michael White
- 14:15–15:30**    **Poster session**
- Generating High-Quality Surface Realizations Using Data Augmentation and Factored Sequence Models*  
Henry Elder and Chris Hokamp
- AX Semantics' Submission to the Surface Realization Shared Task 2018*  
Andreas Madsack, Johanna Heining, Nyamsuren Davaasambuu, Vitaliia Voronik, Michael Käufl and Robert Weißgraeber
- NILC-SWORNEMO at the Surface Realization Shared Task: Exploring Syntax-Based Word Ordering using Neural Models*  
Marco Antonio Sobrevilla Cabezudo and Thiago Pardo
- The DipInfo-UniTo system for SRST 2018*  
Valerio Basile and Alessandro Mazzei
- 15:30–16:00**    **Coffee break**
- 16:00–17:30**    **Panel, Discussions**

