

Towards Increased Language Accessibility with Automatic Text Simplification

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Abstract:

Language technologies hold great promise for bridging communication gaps, yet their benefits are not equitably distributed—particularly for individuals with limited literacy, non-native speakers, and those with cognitive impairments. In this talk, I will present our recent work on automatic text simplification (ATS) as a key approach to improving language accessibility. Specifically, I will discuss methods that leverage large language models for personalized text simplification, techniques for controllable text simplification generation, and the development of evaluation metrics tailored to the German language. Beyond text simplification, I will briefly touch on related efforts in inclusive AI to illustrate how such technologies can be thoughtfully designed and deployed to better serve diverse populations. Ultimately, the talk aims to emphasize the importance of building language technologies that are not only powerful, but also inclusive and accessible.