Google's Artificial Intelligence Translates Poetry

Researchers at Google are tackling what they call one of the most difficult challenges in artificial intelligence. "It's what we call AI complete," says Dmitriy Genzel, a research scientist at Google. "Which means it's as difficult as anything we can attempt in artificial intelligence."

Programming a machine to simply understand language, after all, is a task IBM spent four years and millions of dollars to accomplish with its Watson computer, which competed on Jeopardy last week.

Watson understands human speech. But for a computer to understand and translate poetry, there are added problems of length, meter and rhyme.

At a conference a few months ago, Genzel presented a paper outlining those problems and described the ways Google's computers work to solve them.

Most translation software works by searching through a wealth of possible translations, then evaluating what's most accurate.

Whereas, "if you translate poetry," Genzel says, "you have to preserve what you want the reader to feel."

Although some poets insist even human-to-human poetry translation is incapable of matching that "feeling," Genzel's research does take some big steps toward preserving a poem's length, meter and rhyme.

Translating a haiku? Genzel can preprogram his computer to generate online lines of five, seven and five syllables.

A Shakespeare sonnet in iambic pentameter? The computer can read a pronunciation dictionary, Genzel says, "like you would use to learn another language." Once it knows where the stress falls in a given word, it can correctly place that word in a metered sentence.

"The hardest thing to do is rhyme," Genzel says, "because it connects to different places in a sentence," and because two words that rhyme in English may not rhyme in another language.

In that case, the best Google can do is to cycle through a long list of optional matches to find a rhyme that's right.
Researchers have no way around the pick-and-choose process, so the translations are far from instant and no beta is public.

"Most of the content on the Web is not in English anymore," he says. "So even for English speakers, there's a huge amount of stuff on the Web that you don't have access to."

55 "If you read a news article about some country, you bet if you open their news site — which may not be in English — and read that, you'll get a huge understanding that people don't really see things in the same way," Genzel says.

Translating perspective is more difficult in poetry. Vladimir Nabokov, Genzel points out, famously claimed it's impossible for even a human to preserve both the meaning and form of a translated poem.

1. The article describes:
   a. The way in which AI is taking over the production of poetry.
   b. Google's efforts in producing quality poetry.
   c. Google's efforts in creating computers capable of translating poetry.

2. Genzel points out that in translating poetry:
   a. You must ensure that the translation is accurate.
   b. You must preserve that which you want the reader to feel.
   c. It is impossible for software to translate poetry.

3. When trying to match rhyme:
   a. Google's computers may choose words from other languages.
   b. Google's computers cycle through only words that rhyme.
   c. Google's computers searches sometimes come up with strange matches.

4. The poetry translations done by Google's computers:
   a. Do not provide instant results.
   b. Are available only in beta at present.
   c. Are done in a matter of seconds.

5. According to the text, Vladimir Nabakov thought that:
   a. Humans must choose between translating meaning or form.
   b. Humans have enormous difficulties translating meaning and form.
   c. Humans can translate much better than computers.
SECTION B (10 points) Choose the option which best rephrases each sentence. Think about meaning and grammar.

1. Did you get in touch with your friend today?
   a. Were you able to contact your friend today?
   b. Were you getting in touch with your friend today?
   c. Did your friend touch you today?

2. I don’t care what you do.
   a. What you do is no concerned of mine.
   b. As far as I am concerned, you can do what you please.
   c. As far as I care, you are concerned.

3. Though she was starving, she didn’t have anything to eat.
   a. Even though she was very hungry, she didn’t eat.
   b. In spite of her hungry, she didn’t have anything to eat.
   c. Although she didn’t eat, she wasn’t very hungry.

4. The weather was so nice on our trip to Portugal.
   a. We had such nice weather on our trip to Portugal.
   b. We had such a nice weather on our trip to Portugal.
   c. The weather on our trip to Portugal was such nice.

5. You can’t take food into Warner Brothers Park.
   a. It’s supposed there is no food in Warner Brothers Park.
   b. You are supposed to buy food in Warner Brothers Park.
   c. You aren’t supposed to take any food into Warner Brothers Park.

6. What’s the point in going if it’s closed when we arrive?
   a. It’s pointless to go if somebody is there.
   b. Why go if it’ll be closed when we arrive?
   c. It’s not worth going if it’s close.

7. Your teacher won’t object to you handing it in late.
   a. Your teacher will not object to handing it in late.
   b. There won’t be any objection from your teacher for handing it in late.
   c. Your teacher won’t have any objection to handing it in late.

8. I am sure she didn’t do it on purpose.
   a. She must not have a purpose.
   b. She must have done it accident.
   c. It must have been an accident.

9. He was sorry that he hadn’t thought of it earlier.
   a. He regrets having not thought of it before.
   b. He wishes he had said he was sorry.
   c. He regrets not having thought early.

10. They are not used to getting up so early.
    a. They frequently get up early.
    b. They are not used to getting up.
    c. They seldom get up so early.
School bullies and children who are disruptive in class are twice as likely (1 show) signs of sleep problems compared with well-behaved children, new research shows.

The findings, based on data collected from 341 Michigan elementary school children, (2 suggest) a novel approach to solving school bullying. Currently, most efforts to curb bullying have focused on protecting victims as well as discipline and legal actions against the bullies. The new data suggests that the problem may be better addressed, at least in part, at the source, by (3 pay) attention to some of the unique health issues associated with aggressive behavior.

The University of Michigan study, which was published in the journal Sleep Medicine, collected data from parents on each child’s sleep habits and asked both parents and teachers to assess behavioral concerns. Among the 341 children studied, about a third (4 identify) by parents or teachers as having problems with disruptive behavior or bullying.

The researchers found that children who had behavioral issues were twice as (5 like) to have shown symptoms of sleep-disordered breathing, like snoring or daytime sleepiness. Among children whom parents (6 specific) identified as school bullies, the finding was similar.

The lead author, Louise O'Brien, assistant professor of sleep medicine at the University of Michigan, (7 caution) that the study simply shows an association between sleep problems and bad behavior and doesn’t prove that sleep problems cause bullying. That said, other research has also found an association between behavioral problems and sleep apnea, a sleep disorder (8 character) by snoring and gasping for breath.

“We can’t look at cause and effect, but it certainly (9 fit) with the data that’s out in the literature already,” said Dr. O’Brien. “The hypothesis is that impaired sleep does affect areas of the brain. If that’s disrupted, then emotional regulation and decision-making capabilities are impaired.”

The fact that sleepiness was so predictive of behavioral issues has implications for all children, said Dr. O’Brien, and (10 show) the important role that sleep plays in healthy child development.

“In this day and age, when we’re living in a 24-hour society, sleep is the first thing that gets lost,” she said.
SECTION D (10 points) Choose the option which best completes each sentence.

1. They __________ me that it was a good idea.
   a) said   b) convinced   c) admitted   d) suggested
2. The __________ of Real Madrid was at a low after the defeat.
   a) challenge   b) moral   c) feat   d) morale
3. He __________ the whole course in hopes of finally passing it.
   a) attended   b) managed   c) carried   d) found
4. She has wonderful __________ of her time at the Autonoma.
   a) records   b) souvenirs   c) memories   d) reminds
5. I __________ that my wallet was missing when I arrived home later.
   a) claimed   b) realized   c) caught   d) discover
6. The police were __________ to my complaint about my noisy neighbors.
   a) sympathetic   b) interested   c) nice   d) pleased
7. Living __________ is becoming more common among young people nowadays.
   a) ahead   b) abroad   c) tomorrow   d) around
8. She __________ to say what happened.
   a) complained   b) denied   c) rejected   d) refused
9. He __________ after the press discovered that he had never been to university.
   a) stepped off   b) resigned   c) quitted   d) reassured
10. __________ her concerns, he travelled to Egypt in the spring.
    a) Despite   b) In spite   c) Although   d) In any case
SECTION E (10 points) Fill each of the blanks in the passage with ONE suitable word. Write Ø if no word is necessary.

Four tips to help land you a summer job

Sometime mid-spring, everyone you know starts to freak out about summer jobs. Your friends get all secretive about who they heard was hiring, and your parents start requiring up-to-the-minute status updates on every pointless detail ("What color socks did you wear to your interview?")

Sure, you can choose to diss the job search all together, but that means you’ll spend the summer bored, broke and having to ________ (1) Mom and Dad’s laundry. That’s just awkward for everyone. So you need a job for the summer, and you need it fast.

So, here are a few tips to make sure you’re not stuck folding Dad’s boxer shorts in the middle of July...

1. Have realistic summer job expectations

Everyone has that one friend with the ________ (2) summer job – the one who makes more than you, works less and seemingly possesses an unlimited amount of sick days. (And by sick days, we mean days spent tanning by the pool while ________ (3) a copy of US Weekly). It may seem like that friend has won the summer job lottery, and we don’t want to be the fun police, but what is he/she really learning? Even if a summer job isn’t the yellow brick road to your dream career, you can ________ (4) awesome job skills, or even turn it into a permanent paycheck.

2. Don’t ignore old advice

You’ve probably ________ (5) to "dress for the job you want, not the one you have." And your mom has told you, “You only get one chance to make a first impression.” As annoying as these are to hear, clichés serve a purpose. “Dressing for the job you want” shows employers you’re ________ (6). And there are no do-overs in your job search, so you better get it right the first time.

3. Be honest with potential employers

This starts with being honest with yourself. If you’re a proud vegan and you aren’t sure you could stand handling prime-cut filets, then skip the restaurant job route. ________ (7) honest also includes your initial conversations with potential bosses. Don’t over-commit to the amount of hours you’ll be able to work and then back down later. Also, don’t claim you possess certain skills if you don’t. We know it’s exciting to be on the cusp of landing a job, but the quickest way to crash and burn is to get caught in a ________ (8).

4. Don’t be "that guy" or "that girl"

When dozens and ________ (9) of your peers are competing for the same coveted job, don’t make it easy for a potential employer to take you out of the running early. From having your cell phone blowing up during an interview to dropping off a résumé with your mom in tow, the list of these embarrassing faux pas is long. When in doubt, pause, then exercise a little common ________ (10).
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