Exploring Data Augmentation in Neural DRS-to-Text Generation

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Abstract

 Neural networks are notoriously data-hungry. This represents an issue in cases where data are scarce such as in low-resource languages. Data augmentation is a technique that is commonly used in computer vision to provide neural net- works with more data and for increasing their generalization power. When dealing with data augmentation for natural language, however, simple data augmentation techniques similar to the ones used in computer vision such as rotation and cropping cannot be employed be- cause they would generate ungrammatical texts. Thus, data augmentation needs a specific de-014 sign in the case of neural data-to-text systems, especially for a structurally rich input format 016 such as the ones used for meaning represen- tation. This is the case of the neural natural language generation for Discourse Representa-019 tion Structures (DRS-to-Text), where the log- ical nature of DRS needs a specific design of data augmentation. In this paper, we adopt a novel approach in DRS-to-Text to selectively augment a training set with new data by adding and varying two specific lexical categories, i.e. proper and common nouns. In particular, we propose to use WordNet supersenses for pro- ducing new training sentences using both *in*- and-*out* context nouns. We present a number of experiments for evaluating the role played by augmented lexical information. The exper- imental results prove the effectiveness of our approach for data augmentation in DRS-to-Text generation.

034 1 Introduction

 Data augmentation is a systematic way of increas- ing data examples by altering the original data with controlled variations [\(Feng et al.,](#page-8-0) [2021\)](#page-8-0). It is a prevalent technique in computer vision (CV) for in- creasing dataset size by introducing slightly differ- ent and contextually similar examples [\(Yang et al.,](#page-9-0) 041 **2022**).

Augmentation approaches are also becoming **042** popular in many Natural Language Processing **043** (NLP) applications as well. The most commonly **044** used approaches to augment textual data are based **045** on random swapping, random insertion, random **046** deletions, synonyms replacement, back translation, **047** and using generative models to get new context- **048** [a](#page-8-1)ware data [\(Feng et al.,](#page-8-0) [2021;](#page-8-0) [Shorten and Khosh-](#page-8-1) **049** [goftaar,](#page-8-1) [2019\)](#page-8-1). Notice that data augmentation in **050** NLP is a very challenging task due to the constraint **051** [o](#page-8-2)f producing a grammatical augmented text [\(Hou](#page-8-2) **052** [et al.,](#page-8-2) [2018\)](#page-8-2). Moreover, given the continuous na- **053** ture of images, in CV the augmented version of an **054** image rarely is *pragmatically* incorrect. In contrast, **055** in NLP, preserving the contextual meaning of the **056** sentence is, usually, a hard constraint. Indeed, bad 057 model performance can be the consequence of aug- **058** mented textual data that is grammatically incorrect **059** or out-of-scope [\(Dong et al.,](#page-8-3) [2017\)](#page-8-3). **060**

Recently, researchers working on text gener- **061** ation from meaning representations, i.e., graph- **062** based Abstract Meaning Representation (AMR) **063** [\(Banarescu et al.,](#page-8-4) [2013;](#page-8-4) [Flanigan et al.,](#page-8-5) [2016\)](#page-8-5) or **064** Discourse Representation Structure (DRS) [\(Noord,](#page-8-6) **065** [2019;](#page-8-6) [van Noord et al.,](#page-8-7) [2018;](#page-8-7) [Basile and Bos,](#page-8-8) [2011;](#page-8-8) **066** [Wang et al.,](#page-8-9) [2021;](#page-8-9) [Amin et al.,](#page-7-0) [2022\)](#page-7-0), have put **067** their efforts into generating text from logical rep- **068** resentations, and vice-versa, using transformers **069** and encoder-decoder-based neural models [\(Noord,](#page-8-6) **070** [2019;](#page-8-6) [van Noord et al.,](#page-8-7) [2018;](#page-8-7) [Wang et al.,](#page-8-9) [2021;](#page-8-9) **071** [Amin et al.,](#page-7-0) [2022\)](#page-7-0). In this paper, we consider the $\qquad \qquad 072$ specific problem of augmenting data in the context **073** of neural DRS-to-Text generation task. DRS rep- **074** resents textual information in the form of events, **075** concepts, and entities, i.e., names as discourse ref- **076** erents usually represented as variables in DRS, **077** and logical relations between these entities i.e., **078** quantifiers, conjunctions, negations, disjunctions, **079** etc. [\(Bos,](#page-8-10) [2021;](#page-8-10) [Kamp and Reyle,](#page-8-11) [1993;](#page-8-11) [Jaszczolt,](#page-8-12) **080** [2023\)](#page-8-12). In Fig. [1](#page-1-0) a graphical representation of DRS **081** in box format (on the left), its flattened version i.e., **082**

083 clausal format (on the right), and its corresponding **084** textual representation (on the bottom) is displayed.

Figure 1: Box format and Clausal format of DRS along with their textual representation.

 Neural DRS-to-Text generation is a type of data- to-text generation task that takes the logical repre- sentation of a sentence as input and generates text as output [\(Wang et al.,](#page-8-9) [2021;](#page-8-9) [Amin et al.,](#page-7-0) [2022\)](#page-7-0). This is an application of text generation from struc- [t](#page-8-5)ured input data similar to knowledge graphs [\(Flani-](#page-8-5) [gan et al.,](#page-8-5) [2016\)](#page-8-5), RDF triplets data [\(Gardent et al.,](#page-8-13) [2017\)](#page-8-13), and tables [\(Parikh et al.,](#page-8-14) [2020\)](#page-8-14). Note that, in contrast to tables and graphs, the ability to rep- resent the structured logical nature of the input as a DRS generation allows for a more fine-grained investigation of the relation between input and out- put in DRS-to-Text. In other words *"changing the meaning of a DRS in a controlled way, the robust- ness of systems can be monitored in detail and as- sessed accordingly"* [\(Wang et al.,](#page-8-9) [2021\)](#page-8-9). However, this robustness property discourages the applica- tion of large language models (LLMs) for augment- ing data because LLMs would generate noise in the augmented data [\(Feng et al.,](#page-8-0) [2021;](#page-8-0) [Hou et al.,](#page-8-2) [2018;](#page-8-2) [Dong et al.,](#page-8-3) [2017\)](#page-8-3) – see also Section [4.](#page-5-0)

 In this paper, we exploit the robustness property of neural DRS-to-Text generation by designing and evaluating data augmentation for the specific cate- gories of (i) proper nouns and (ii) common nouns. In particular, we have designed and evaluated a pro- cedure for augmenting a DRS training dataset by adding *context-aware* new sentences that are pro- duced by varying the proper and common nouns in the original sentences. We consider different strate- gies and propose to use Supersenses Tagging (SST) for creating new training sentences using both *in- and-out* context nouns. In this way, we want to analyze the role played by lexical information in the performance of a neural DRS-to-Text system.

120 The research questions and contributions ad-

dressed in this paper are: **121**

• Is it possible to augment a logical data repre- **122** sentation such as DRS? **123** • How to generate new data that is contextually **124** similar to the original one? **125** • What is the role played by the *in-and-* **126** *out* contextual vocabulary for char-level and **127** word-level decoder models? And what is **128** the role of grammatical-semantic-pragmatic- **129** world knowledge in learning? **130** • Does augmentation result in an increase or **131** decrease in model performance? **132** • What is the behavior of the state-of-the-art **133** large language models i.e., ChatGPT, while **134** analyzing DRS structures? **135** To the best of our knowledge, apart from the pre- **136** liminary work on augmentation of verbs presented **137** in [\(Amin et al.,](#page-7-0) [2022\)](#page-7-0), this is the first on data aug- **138** mentation in DRS-to-Text generation analyzing its **139** impact on model performance. **140** Notice that our augmentation techniques could **141** generate factually incorrect texts (e.g., starting **142** from "at dawn, the sun rises", "at night, the sun **143** rises" could be generated. However, since humans **144** can generate texts that are not factually correct **145** (consider, for example, a sci-fi story), preventing **146** this situation would actually be not beneficial, but **147** detrimental for the system. **148** The statistical nature of the neural networks does **149** not allow for an easy analysis of the kind of knowl- **150**

edge really learned by the system. When we pro- **151** vide a specific example as *Brad Pitt is an actor*, **152** the network is learning that the verb follows the **153** subject (e.g. grammatical competence), and/or that **154** a man can be an actor (semantic and pragmatic **155** knowledge), and/or that a specific man is an actor **156** (world knowledge)? How can we exploit this multi- **157** level nature of neural learning? A side effect of **158** our study on data augmentation is to investigate on **159** these theoretical questions as well. **160**

The paper is structured as follows: in Section [2,](#page-2-0) 161 we describe the procedure adopted for noun aug- **162** mentation; in Section [3,](#page-3-0) we give architectural insights on the neural DRS-to-Text pipeline; in Sec- 164 tion [4,](#page-5-0) we describe the experimental results of DRS- **165** to-text generation that uses (1) automatic metrics **166** on a standard test set, (2) a reduced test set com- **167** paring the neural system with two general LLMs, **168**

| %%% ø Brad~Pitt is an actor . | | %%% ø Louis~Olivia is a performer. | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| b1 REF x1 | % $Brad \sim P$ itt $[09]$ | b1 REF x1 | % Louis~Olivia [09] |
| b1 Name x1 "brad~pitt" | % $Brad \sim P$ itt $[09]$ | b1 Name x1 "louis~olivia" | % Louis~Olivia [09] |
| b1 PRESUPPOSITION b2 | % $Brad \sim P$ itt $[09]$ | b1 PRESUPPOSITION b2 | % Louis~Olivia [09] |
| b1 male "n.02" x1 | % $Brad \sim Pitt [09]$ | b1 male "n.02" x1 | % Louis~Olivia [09] |
| b2 REF e1 | % is $[1012]$ | b2 REF e1 | % is [1012] |
| b2 REF t1 | % is $[1012]$ | b2 REF t1 | % is [1012] |
| b2 Co-Theme e1 x2 | % is $[1012]$ | b2 Co-Theme e1 x2 | % is $[1012]$ |
| b2 EQU t1 "now" | % is $[1012]$ DRS Transformation | | |
| b2 Theme e1 x1 | % is $[1012]$ | b2 EQU t1 "now" | % is $[1012]$ |
| $b2$ Time e1 $t1$ | % is $[1012]$ | b2 Theme e1 x1 | % is [1012] |
| b2 be "v.08" e1 | % is $[1012]$ | b2 Time e1 t1 | % is $[1012]$ |
| b2 time "n.08" t1 | % is $[1012]$ | b2 be "v.08" e1 | % is [1012] |
| b2 REF x2 | % an [1315] | b2 time "n.08" t1 | % is $[1012]$ |
| b2 REF x3 | $\%$ actor [1621] | b2 REF x2 | % a [1315] |
| b2 Role x2 x3 | $\%$ actor [1621] | b2 REF x3 | $%$ performer $[1621]$ |
| b2 actor "n.01" $x3$ | $%$ actor $[1621]$ | b2 Role x2 x3 | % performer $[1621]$ |
| $b2$ person "n.01" $x2$ | % actor [1621] | b2 performer "n.01" x3 | $%$ performer $[1621]$ |
| $%$. [2122] | | $b2$ person "n.01" $x2$ | $%$ performer $[1621]$ |
| | | $%$. [2122] | |

Figure 2: Graphical representation of the DRS transformation as a proper noun (in blue) and common noun (in green). The DRS on the left generates the sentence *Brad Pitt is an actor.*, while the DRS on the right generates *Louis Olivia is a performer*.

169 and (3) applying both automatic and human eval-**170** uation metrics. Finally, in Section [5,](#page-7-1) we conclude **171** the paper.

¹⁷² 2 Logical Data Augmentation with Nouns

 Data augmentation is a relatively complex task in the case of neural DRS-to-Text: each augmented example in the training set consists of a pair of a new DRS structure together with a new correspond- ing sentence. While applying systematic transfor- mations on training data, it is essential to keep track of both types of data representations as they are treated as *input value pairs* in the neural model. So, data transformations should be identical and sym- metrical on both elements by considering the order of meaning representations and textual translations.

 In the DRS-to-Text generation task, we applied different augmentation techniques for augmenting proper nouns and common nouns. We have used the gold version of the [Parallel Meaning Bank](https://pmb.let.rug.nl/)^{[1](#page-2-1)} (PMB) dataset, which is organized in the usual train-dev-test split.

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 A graphical representation of transformation for proper (highlighted in blue) and common (high- lighted in green) nouns in DRS is shown in Fig. [2:](#page-2-2) the DRS on the left generates the sentence *Brad Pitt is an actor*, while the DRS on the right generates *Louis Olivia is a performer* (see Table [1\)](#page-3-1).

2.1 Proper Noun Augmentation **196**

For proper nouns, we considered two specific name **197** entity (NE) categories, which are the proper name **198** of a person (PER) and of a place i.e., city, state, or **199** country (GPE). We have used spaCy NE recognizer **200** [\(https://spacy.io\)](https://spacy.io) to extract proper nouns from the **201** text. There are a total amount of 3773 proper noun **202** instances for PER and GPE. The proper nouns are **203** divided as follows: person names 57%, city names **204** 30%, state names 6%, country names 6%, and 1% **205** other types as shown in Fig. [3.](#page-2-3)

Person-Names City-Names State-Names Country-Names Others

Figure 3: Distribution of proper noun entities in Gold-PMB dataset.

We have used two procedures for replacing 207 proper nouns to analyze the impact of adding ex- **208** ternal linguistic information to the dataset vocabu- **209**

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 1 The PMB is developed at the University of Groningen as part of the NWO-VICI project "Lost in Translation – Found in Meaning" (Project number 277-89-003), led by Johan Bos.

Table 1: Different flavors of augmentation applied to the dataset as single and blended data transformations.

10 **lary²**. (1) Replacing them with other proper nouns inside the same dataset, i.e., *inside context*. (2) Re- placing them with proper nouns outside the dataset, i.e., *outside context*.

 For replacing proper nouns via *outside context* approach, we choose the person names based on the highest frequency of each name cited in the world. For the city, state, and country names, we replace them based on geographical distribution keeping in mind that the GPE names should not be in the dataset. Some examples listing proper noun augmentation are displayed in Table [1.](#page-3-1)

222 2.2 Common Noun Augmentation

 Replacing a common noun without altering the con- textual information of the sentence is a challenging task. To tackle this challenge, we adopt a novel Su- persense Tagging (SST) approach to associate a cat- egory with the noun based on its contextual sense in the sentence. For the implementation of SST, we have used spaCy again. Based on data examples, we extracted 6193 common nouns belonging to the 26 lexicographic categories of WordNet, includ- ing act, artifact, body, cognition, communication, [e](#page-8-15)vent, feeling, food, group, and motion [\(Ciaramita](#page-8-15) [and Johnson,](#page-8-15) [2003\)](#page-8-15). A graphical distribution of SST-based common nouns is displayed in Fig. [4.](#page-4-0)

 In common noun augmentation, our approach considers two procedures: inside/outside dataset and preserving/not preserving SS, thus resulting in four of the following combinations: (1) Replac-ing a common noun with any other common noun inside the dataset but not preserving SS: *"inside* **241** *context without SS"*. Here there is no guarantee of **242** sustaining the contextual sense of the sentence. (2) 243 Replacing a common noun with another common **244** noun having the same category of SS: *"inside con-* **245** *text with SS"*. (3) Replacing a common noun with **246** another common noun having the same category **247** of SS but outside the dataset *"outside context with* **248** *SS"*. (4) Replacing a common noun with another **249** common noun not having the same category of SS **250** but outside the dataset *"outside context without* **251** *SS"*. **252**

Note that in this work we have not performed **253** other possible combinations for proper nouns, that **254** is: changing GPE without considering the same **255** class, i.e., changing city with state or country. The **256** motivation lies in the fact that these combinations **257** would radically change the semantics of the sen- **258** tence. In other words, we decided to follow a sort **259** of *principle of minimum variation of the meaning* **260** for choosing the augmentation strategy. **261**

3 Neural DRS-to-Text Pipeline **²⁶²**

DRS-to-Text generation is a complex data-to-text **263** generation task requiring computationally fast and **264** efficient neural models to transform logical repre- **265** sentations. In our implementation pipeline, we use **266** marianNMT: a Microsoft framework specifically **267** [d](#page-8-16)eveloped for machine translation tasks [\(Imamura](#page-8-16) **268** [and Sumita,](#page-8-16) [2018;](#page-8-16) [Junczys-Dowmunt et al.,](#page-8-17) [2018\)](#page-8-17). **269** The architecture of marianNMT is based on GRUs **270** utilized as building blocks of RNN with the ability **271** to process single and multiple encoders i.e., "s2s" **272**

²While extracting NE, no offensive information was found.

Figure 4: Supersense tagging based categorical division of common noun entities in Gold-PMB dataset.

 model and "multi-s2s" model. We further applied an attention layer to give more attention to certain relevant vector representations of encoded DRS [\(van Noord et al.,](#page-8-18) [2019\)](#page-8-18). Furthermore, we are using a bi-LSTM-based encoder (see Fig. [5\)](#page-5-1) that takes input from a DRS and decoder to generate text as an output. Being a seq-to-seq model, it is mainly used in translating text from one language to an- other language but this architecture also provided promising results in the DRS-to-Text generation task [\(Wang et al.,](#page-8-9) [2021;](#page-8-9) [Amin et al.,](#page-7-0) [2022\)](#page-7-0). We are aware that the state-of-the-art DRS-to-text genera- tion uses sophisticated neural architectures based on treeLSTM [\(Liu et al.,](#page-8-19) [2021\)](#page-8-19). However, the goals of this paper are related to analyze the effects of data augmentation in the context of neural DRS-to- text generation rather than providing a system with the best performances.

 We implement both a character-level decoder [a](#page-7-0)nd a word-level decoder [\(Wang et al.,](#page-8-9) [2021;](#page-8-9) [Amin](#page-7-0) [et al.,](#page-7-0) [2022\)](#page-7-0). The fundamental differences between char-level and word-level models are based on in-**put and output data representations^{[3](#page-4-1)}, i.e.,** *charac***-** *ters or words* and their ability to handle out-of- vocabulary (OOV) words. The former deals with OOV words in a seamless way as it processes char- acter sequences, while the latter could struggle to handle OOV words as it is dependent on the size of the included vocabulary.

302 For the experimental implementation, we have **303** used GPU along with CUDA to boost our model performance[4](#page-4-2) **304** . The model architecture and hyper-

| Hyper-Parameters | Values |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Embedding Dimensions | 300 |
| Enc/Dec Cell | LSTM |
| Enc/Dec Depth | 2 |
| Mini-batch | 48 |
| Normalization Rate | 0.9 |
| lr-decay | 0.5 |
| lr-decay-strategy | Epoch |
| Optimizer | Adam |
| Validation Metric | Cross-Entropy |
| Cost-Type | ce-mean |
| Beam Size | 10 |
| Learning Rate | 0.002 |

Table 2: Hyper-parameter setting of neural model for experimental implementation.

parameters used in our experiment are focused on **305** LSTM-based encryption decryption cells having **306** epochs-based learning decay strategy while using **307** Adam as an optimizer. We have used cross entropy **308** as the validation metric and ce-mean as the cost **309** type function. Other important hyper-parameters **310** are mentioned in Table [2.](#page-4-3) **311**

We have used the English version of the Parallel 312 Meaning Bank (PMB) dataset. Among the different **313** dataset types, i.e., gold, silver, and bronze, we have **314** worked on the gold (fully manually annotated and **315** corrected version) dataset. Gold-PMB follows the **316** standard dataset division of training, development, **317** and testing files having 6620, 885, and 898 data **318** examples. In the process of augmenting the dataset, **319** we have adopted two types of approaches to trans- **320** form examples. (1) Apply one type of transforma- **321** tion and concatenate it with the original data exam- **322** ples. This approach will result in having more data **323** with one type of data transformation, e.g., proper 324 noun or common noun (indicated with the '+' sign **325**

 $3As$ our aim is to get a relatively straightforward baseline NLG system, rather than exploring the full range of text representation possibilities, e.g., sub-words, we considered just two ways to represent text: character-based and word-based.

 4 On CPU, it will take more than 12 hours to run augmen-

tation experiment.

Figure 5: Graphical representation of the implementation pipeline for our augmented DRS-to-Text generation experiments.

| Transformation Type | Size | Examples |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Orig Training Examples | x1 | 6620 |
| $Orig + P.N. Aug$ | x2 | 13240 |
| $Orig + C.N. Aug$ | x2 | 13240 |
| Orig + P.N.-with-C.N. Aug | x2 | 13240 |
| $Orig + P.N. + C.N. Aug$ | x ₃ | 19860 |
| Validation Examples | | 885 |
| Test Examples | | 898 |

Table 3: Impact of dataset size concerning augmentation applied in individual form (indicated as '+') or blended form (indicated as '-').

 in Table [3\)](#page-5-2). We have applied data augmentation to training examples only. Development and test files are the original ones, without any augmenta- tion. (2) Apply multiple possible transformations (blend) on each example, e.g., apply proper noun and common noun augmentation on one example (indicated with the '-' sign in Table [3\)](#page-5-2). So, in this approach the training set size is smaller than in approach (1): in this way, we emphasize the role played by transformations rather than training set **336** size.

 In Table [3,](#page-5-2) we have listed the individual and blended data transformation along with training examples size to have a clear understanding of all variants of data transformation for our experiments.

³⁴² 4 Experimental Results

 Evaluation with automatic metrics. We have con- ducted a series of different experiments that focuses on analyzing the model performance based on sys- tematic alterations in lexical semantics-based input representations. We have listed both char-level (see Table [4\)](#page-6-0) and word-level (see Table [5\)](#page-6-1) experimental results with the BLEU, NIST, METEOR, ROUGE, and CIDEr-based automatic evaluation measures

[\(Wang et al.,](#page-8-9) [2021;](#page-8-9) [Amin et al.,](#page-7-0) [2022\)](#page-7-0). In these **351** experiments, we have used the standard split of **352** PMB in train-dev-test sets. 353

Analyzing performance on char-level and word- **354** level models enlightens the role played by data **355** augmentation. As our implementation is also con- **356** cerned with possible data transformations, i.e., **357** proper and common nouns, we have analyzed the **358** architectural behavior for both char-level and word- **359** level input data representations. We have listed all **360** char-level results in Table [4](#page-6-0) and word-level results **361** in Table [5.](#page-6-1) If we compare the overall performance **362** of char-level and word-level models, char-level al- **363** ways wins in all aspects of input data. This reflects **364** the fact that the char-level model with the ability **365** to handle OOV words is performing very well in **366** capturing micro-level aspects and data patterns of **367** input DRS. This also shows the effectiveness and **368** morphological accuracy of the char-level model in 369 generating correct output sequences. **370**

In the proper noun augmentation, our experi- **371** ments are twofold: (1) *inside context* and (2) *out-* **372** *side context* as discussed in Section [2.](#page-2-0) Exp. $2 - 3$ 373 (see Table [4\)](#page-6-0) and $11 - 12$ (see Table [5\)](#page-6-1) list the 374 results obtained after performing two flavors of **375** proper noun augmentation in char-level and word- **376** level models respectively. **377**

The experimental findings show that vocabulary **378** plays a vital role in the case of the char-level model **379** as this is more independent in sequence generation. **380** Therefore, we have the highest score in the char **381** level for the proper noun augmentation *outside con-* **382** *text* to the dataset (Exp. 3). On the other hand, **383** the word-level decoder is more focused on vocab- **384** ulary, therefore it has the highest scores in proper **385** noun augmentation *inside context* to the dataset **386** (Exp. 11). The latter represents the effectiveness **387** of word-level models in generating coherent and **388** grammatically correct output sequences while cap- **389**

| Exp. | Implementation Type | BLEU | NIST | METEOR | ROUGE | CIDEr |
|------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 01 | Gold-PMB without Aug | 47.72 | 7.68 | 39.42 | 72.59 | 4.84 |
| 02 | Orig + P.N. (inside context) Aug | $51.37 \;{\rm \ddagger}$ | $7.96 \;{\rm \ddagger}$ | $41.19 \;{\rm \ddagger}$ | 74.78 ^+ | $5.15 \;{\rm \ddagger}$ |
| 03 | O rig + P.N. (outside context) Aug | $53.16 \;{\rm \ddagger}$ | $8.11 \;$ † | $42.00 +$ | $75.30 +$ | $5.27 +$ |
| 04 | Orig + C.N. (inside context with SS) Aug | $50.28 +$ | 7.94 | 40.90 ° | 74.24 ^+ | $5.02 +$ |
| 05 | Orig + C.N. (inside context without SS) Aug | 49.99 † | 7.91 | $40.14 \;{\rm \ddagger}$ | 74.06 † | $4.96 \;{\rm \ddagger}$ |
| 06 | Orig + $C.N$ (outside context with SS) Aug | $50.89\dagger$ | $7.98 +$ | $40.70 \;{\rm t}$ | $74.38\dagger$ | 5.08 |
| 07 | O rig + C.N (outside context without SS) Aug | $50.63 \;{\rm \ddagger}$ | $7.93 +$ | $40.39\dagger$ | 74.33 ^+ | $5.06 \;{\rm \ddagger}$ |
| 08 | Orig + P.N (outside context)-with-C.N (out- | $52.51 \;{\rm \, \uparrow}$ | $8.06 \;{\rm \ddagger}$ | $41.23 +$ | $75.28 \text{ }{\pm}$ | $5.24 \;{\rm \ddagger}$ |
| | side context with SS) Aug | | | | | |
| 09 | Orig + P.N (outside context) + C.N (outside | $54.00 +$ | $8.19 +$ | $42.32 +$ | $76.15 +$ | 5.35 |
| | context with SS) Aug | | | | | |

Table 4: Char-based individual and blended proper noun (P.N.) and common noun (C.N.) augmentation experiments. † shows that the model is statistically significant using *Wilcoxon Test* wrt all evaluation metrics scores. All experiments are an average of 5 runs.

Table 5: Evaluation of word-based individual and blended proper noun (P.N.) and common noun (C.N.) augmentation experiments with baselines. ‡ shows that the model is statistically significant using *Wilcoxon Test* wrt all evaluation metrics scores. All experiments are an average of 5 runs.

390 turing correct syntax and semantic meanings of **391** input DRS.

> **392** For common noun augmentation, our experi-**393** ments are fourfold: (1) *inside context with SS*, (2) **394** *inside context without SS*, (3) *outside context with* **SS**, and (4) *outside context without* SS: Exp. $4 - 7$ (see Table [4\)](#page-6-0) and $13-16$ (see Table [5\)](#page-6-1) regard these four different flavors of common noun augmentation of two models respectively.

> We believe that the important role played by the vocabulary holds for common nouns as well, with **401** the highest scores of char-level decoder for *outside* **402** *context with SS* (Exp. 6) and best word-level score **403** for *inside context with SS* (Exp. 13).

In Exp. $8 - 9$ (see Table [4\)](#page-6-0) and $17 - 18$ (see Table [5\)](#page-6-1), we have applied the best augmentation **406** techniques of proper and common nouns (i.e., out-**407** side context for char-level model and inside context

for word-level models) as blended and individual **408** data examples. In Exp. 8 and 17, the augmenta- **409** tion techniques have been applied simultaneously **410** to each input data example (i.e., as we are applying **411** 2 data transformations on one example, we name it **412** blended, see proper and common noun example in **413** Table [1\)](#page-3-1). Here dataset examples are concatenated **414** as *(original + P.N.-with-C.N.)*. While in Exp. 9 **415** and 18, these augmentation techniques have been **416** applied separately and concatenated as *(original* **417** *+ P.N + C.N)* augmentation data examples. Com- **418** paring all experimental results, we achieved the **419** highest scores for char-level and word-level mod- **420** els while applying the best augmentation flavors of **421** P.N and C.N concatenated as separate individual **422** training examples (see Exp. 9 and 18). **423**

We tested statistical significance of the results **424** with a *Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test* [\(Dror et al.,](#page-8-20) **425**

| Model | | | | | BLEU NIST MET. ROU. CIDEr | Implementat |
|----------------|------------|------|-------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Gold- | 45.42 6.43 | | | 38.42 71.70 | 4.75 | Type |
| PMB | | | | | | Gold-PMB |
| ChatGPT | 9.82 | 2.63 | 27.91 | 39.80 | 1.59 | ChatGPT |
| Claude | 11.33 | 3.05 | 29.39 | 42.43 | 1.69 | Claude |
| C.N. Aug | 48.70 | 6.70 | 39.67 | 73.38 | 5.03 | C.N. Aug |
| P.N. Aug | 50.64 | 6.69 | 40.67 | 74.22 | 5.22 | P.N. Aug |
| $P.N. + C.N.$ | 51.71 | 6.79 | | 40.95 74.88 5.30 | | $PN + C.N.$ At |
| Aug | | | | | | T_2 kla 7. T_{stack} |

Table 6: Evaluation of DRS-to-Text by LLMs reporting scores for the baseline (without augmentation), Chat-GPT 3.5, Claude 2.0, and our best (augmented) model.

ion Sem. Gram. Phen. ROSE Gold-PMB 54% 60% 70% 52% ChatGPT 28% 86% 46% 24% Claude 34% 86% 44% 34% C.N. Aug 58% 68% 62% 58% P.N. Aug 62% 66% 68% 58% $P.N + C.N.$ Aug 64% 72% 72% 62%

Table 7: Expert Evaluation based on Semantics, Grammatical Structure, and Phenomenon for the baseline (without augmentation), ChatGPT 3.5, Claude 2.0, and our best (augmented) model.

426 [2018\)](#page-8-20).

427 Comparing neural DRS-to-Text and LLMs.

 We compare the quality of the generated text of our neural DRS-to-Text system with two recent general LLMs, ChatGPT 3.5 [\(OpenAI,](#page-8-21) [2023\)](#page-8-21) and Claude 2.0 [\(Turpin et al.,](#page-8-22) [2023\)](#page-8-22) in order to provide a preliminary insight in the performance of our approach with respect to a general LLM that was not fine-tuned on the task.

 To capture performance insights, we considered a sample of 215 sentences from the test set, both (1) on the best neural DRS-to-Text model (see Ta- ble [6\)](#page-7-2), and (2) to the prompt of ChatGPT 3.5 and Claude 2.0 to get model-generated texts (see the exact prompts in the Appendix [A\)](#page-9-1). We evaluated the output with automatic evaluation metrics scores. All scores are listed in Table [6.](#page-7-2) The experimental evaluation clearly states that LLMs being general- purpose generative models do not perform well for the low-resource domain-specific task thus high- lighting the need for task-specific neural models for DRS-to-Text generation task.

 Expert Evaluation. Our final evaluation is based on the human evaluation of one expert, who evaluated the generated text and produced a ROSE (Robust Overall Semantic Evaluation) score. As defined in [\(Wang et al.,](#page-8-9) [2021\)](#page-8-9), the ROSE score is the conjunction of three 0-1 evaluation scores: (1) a Boolean *Semantic* measure that checks if the generated text preserves the true meaning w.r.t. to the gold reference; (2) a Boolean *Grammatical* measure that checks if the generated text is not con- taining any spelling or grammatical errors; (3) a Boolean *Phenomenon* measure that checks if in the generated text the "phenomenon of control is gen- [e](#page-8-9)rated at all" w.r.t. to the gold reference [\(Wang](#page-8-9) [et al.,](#page-8-9) [2021\)](#page-8-9). If the text passes all these three scores (conjunction), it gets a 1 score, otherwise, 463 it gets a 0 score. In Table [7,](#page-7-3) we have reported the **464** ROSE scores on a sample of 50 sentences from **465** the test set.This evaluation confirms the quality of **466** our best augmentation model in producing good- **467** quality texts, showing the best results in the ROSE **468** measure too. **469**

5 Conclusion **⁴⁷⁰**

In this paper, we have performed a series of ex- **471** periments on data augmentation for neural DRS- **472** to-Text generation. Using the PMB dataset, we **473** adopted a novel approach to augment lexical in- **474** formation in DRS for proper and common nouns **475** along with different *in-and-out* context transforma- **476** tions. Experimental results reflect both individual **477** and blended implementation scores for our seq-to- **478** seq model. The significantly improved results for **479** the char- and word-level models prove the effec- **480** tiveness and reliability of our proposed approach. **481**

Limitations **⁴⁸²**

As PMB is a multilingual dataset, we have not ex- **483** panded our implementation on other low-resource **484** languages like *Italian*, *Dutch*, and *French*. As our **485** goal was to study the impact of noun augmentation **486** in the DRS-to-Text generation task, based on litera- **487** ture insights [\(Noord,](#page-8-6) [2019;](#page-8-6) [van Noord et al.,](#page-8-7) [2018;](#page-8-7) **488** [Wang et al.,](#page-8-9) [2021;](#page-8-9) [Amin et al.,](#page-7-0) [2022\)](#page-7-0), we experi- **489** mented only with the bi-LSTM-based seq-to-seq **490** model. We have not tried any Transformers-based **491** models yet. **492**

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⁶⁰⁹ A LLM Prompts for DRS to Text **⁶¹⁰** generation task

Prompt

Discourse Representation Structure (DRS) refers to a formal representation used to capture the meaning of a sentence or a piece of text in a way that can be processed and analyzed by computational systems. Given a clausal format of DRS, can you generate an English translation of the given DRS?

ChatGPT Response

Absolutely, I can assist you in generating English translations from a clausal format of Discourse Representation Structure (DRS). Please provide me with the specific DRS you have in mind, and I'll do my best to provide you with the corresponding English translation. Prompt

Table 8: Example of a prompt and the related response from ChatGPT 3.5 for DRS-to-Text generation.

How far is it?

Table 9: Example of a prompt and its related response from Claude 2.0 for DRS-to-Text generation.