

# Task-Oriented Paraphrase Analytics

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LREC-COLING 2024



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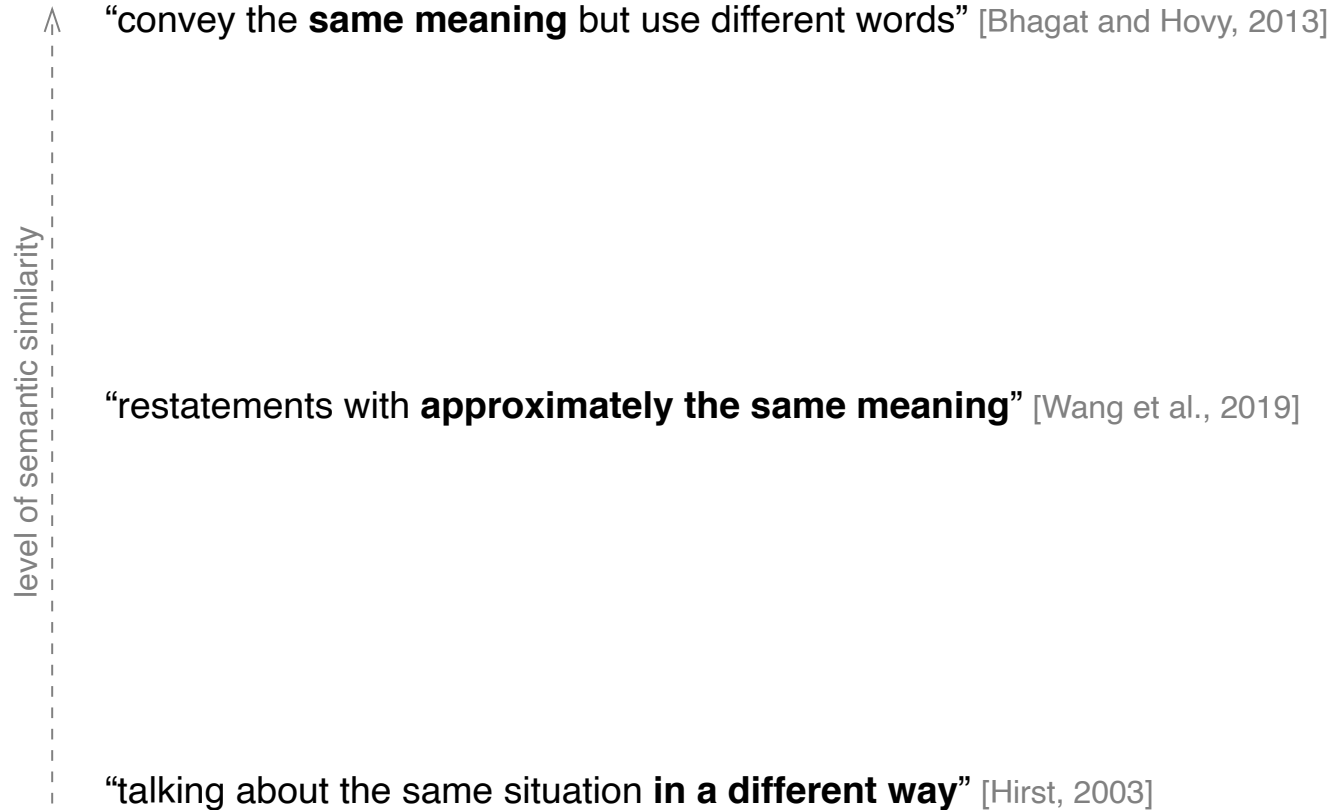


**Martin  
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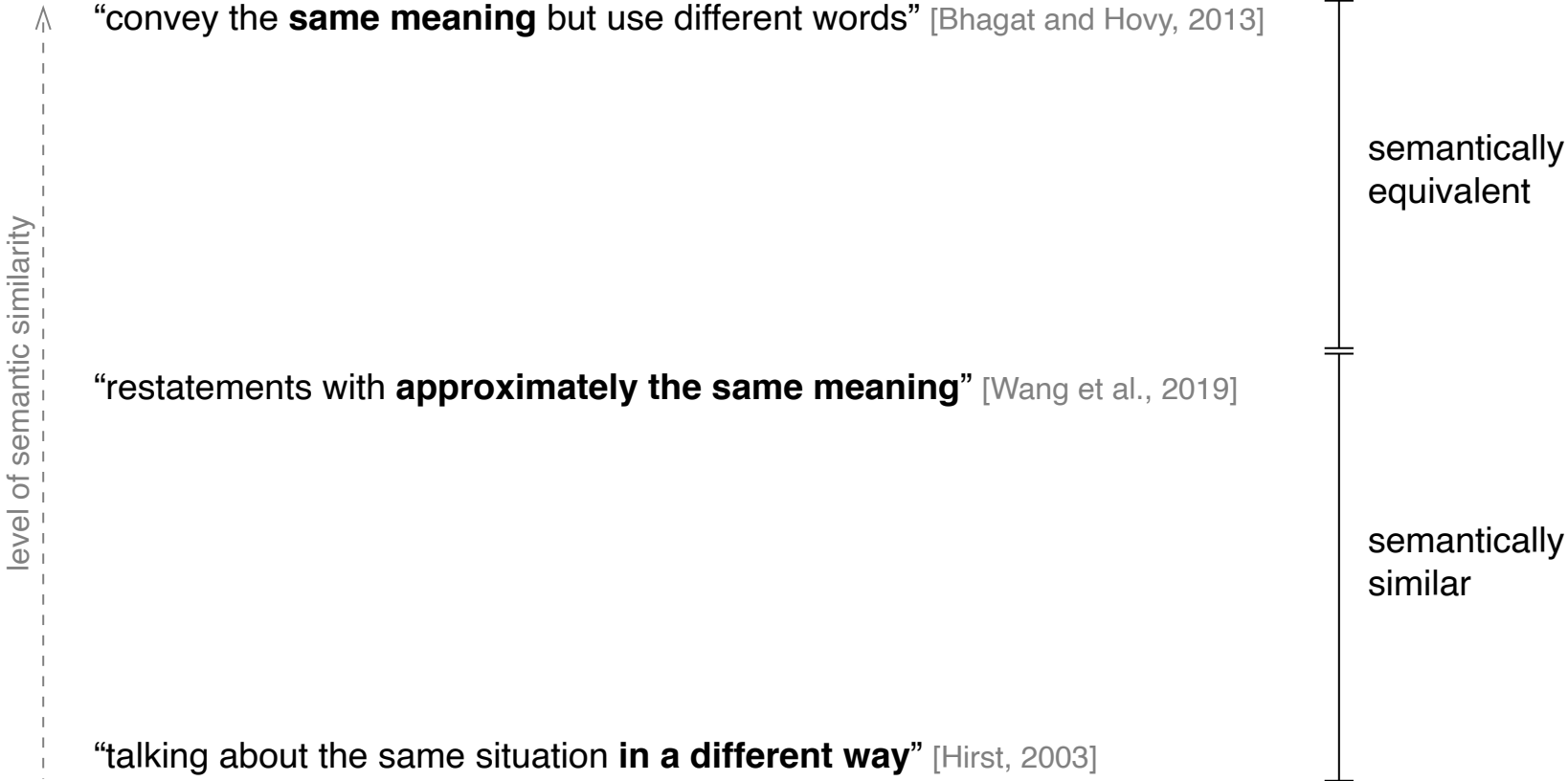


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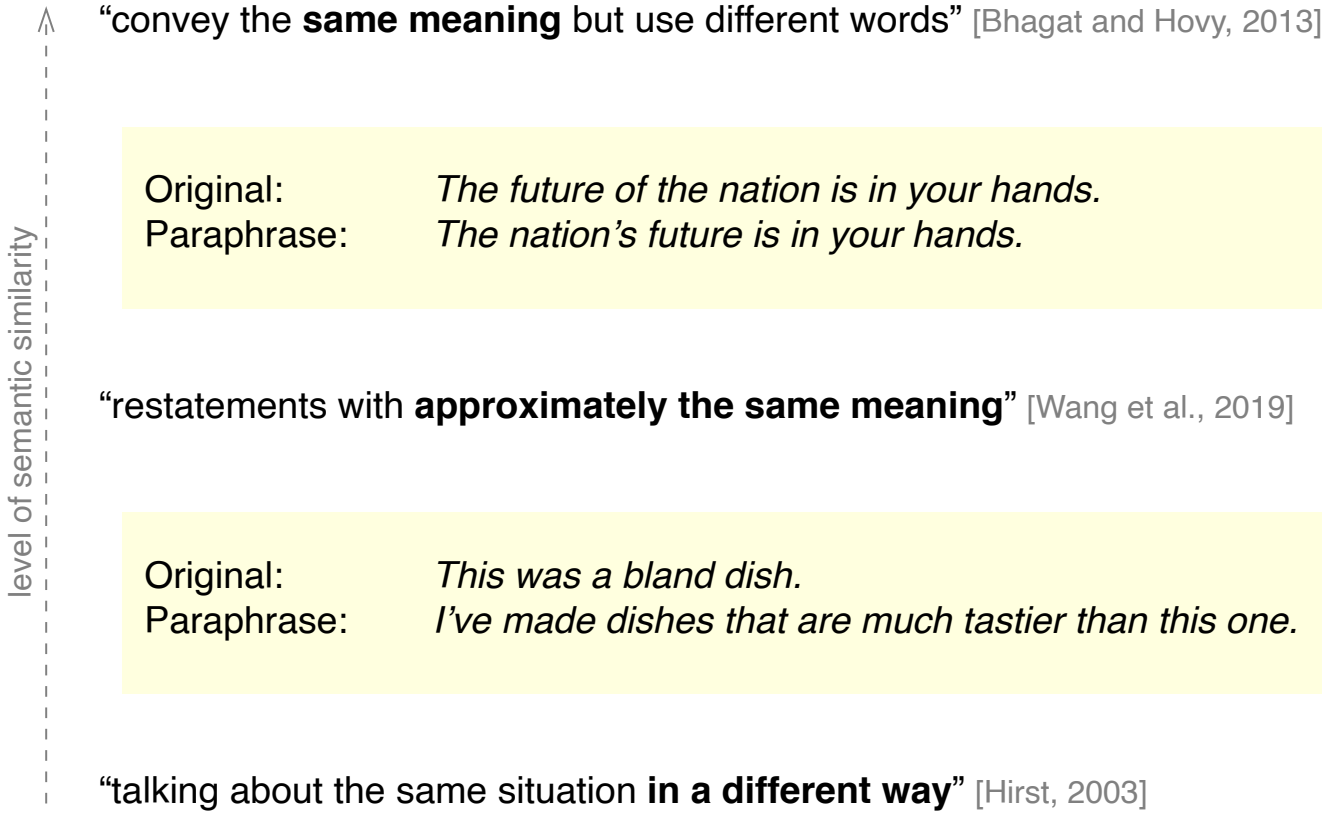
# Paraphrase Definitions



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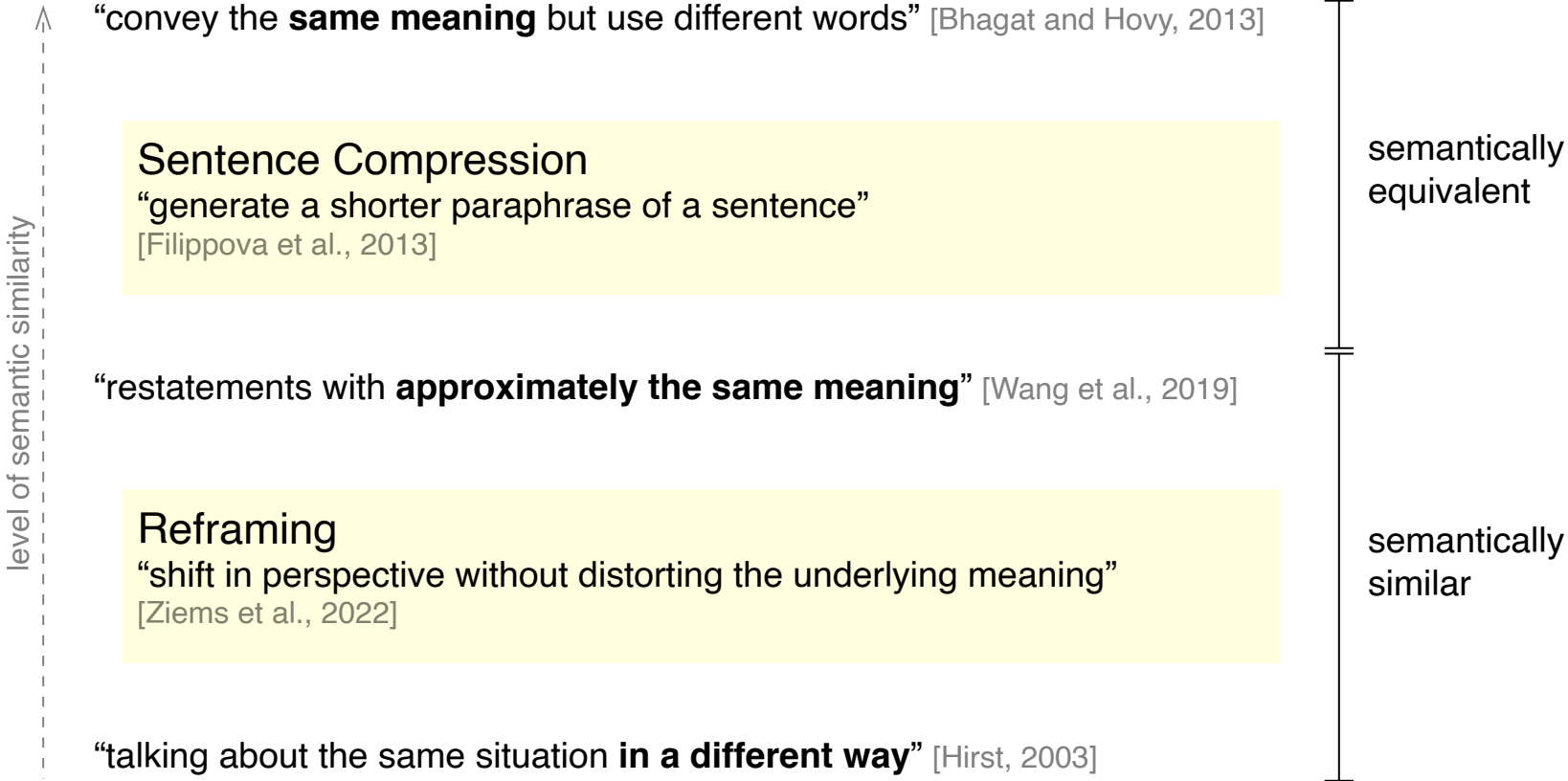
# Paraphrase Definitions



semantically equivalent

semantically similar

# Paraphrase Definitions



# Creating a Paraphrasing Task Taxonomy

Extensive literature research to find tasks that

- 1) have been explicitly defined as paraphrasing tasks or
- 2) align with common paraphrase definitions

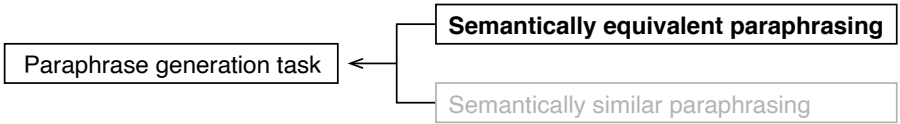
Classifying found tasks as

- Semantically *equivalent* paraphrasing
- Semantically *similar* paraphrasing

Overall, we found 25 paraphrasing tasks and arranged them in a task taxonomy.

# Paraphrasing Task Taxonomy

Taxonomy of semantically equivalent paraphrasing tasks:



**Copy editing**

- Improvement of coherence
- Text simplification
- Sentence compression
- Sentence expansion

**Data augmentation**

- Adversarial example generation

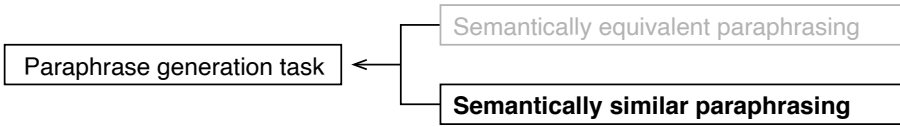
**Linguistic steganography**

- Acrostification
- Natural language watermarking

**Style adjustment**

- Author obfuscation
- Plagiarizing
- Style transfer

Taxonomy of semantically similar paraphrasing tasks:



**Context change**

- Image recaptioning
- Positive reframing
- Text localization

**Conversational interaction**

- Argument repetition
- Question dodging
- Rogerian rhetoric application
- Utterance clarification

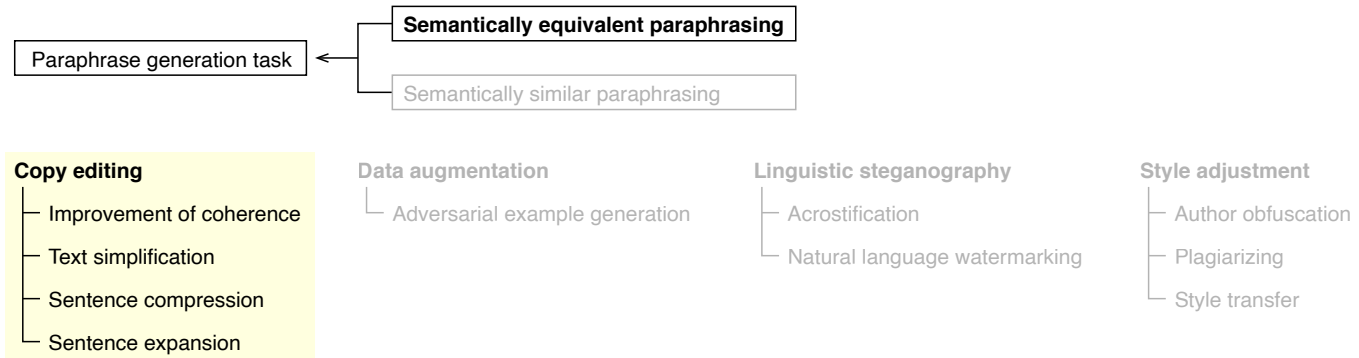
**Textual entailment generation**

**Information disguise**

**Query suggestion**

# Paraphrasing Task Taxonomy

## Semantically Equivalent Paraphrasing



## Improvement of coherence

Paraphrasing to ease reading across sentences.

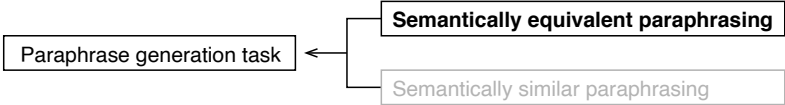
Original: *In the lungs, carbon dioxide leaves the circulating blood and oxygen enters it.*

Paraphrase: *In the lungs, carbon dioxide that has been collected from cells as blood has passed around the body, leaves the circulating blood and oxygen enters it.*



# Paraphrasing Task Taxonomy

## Semantically Equivalent Paraphrasing



- Copy editing**
  - Improvement of coherence
  - Text simplification
  - Sentence compression
  - Sentence expansion

- Data augmentation**
  - Adversarial example generation

- Linguistic steganography**
  - Acrostification
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## Text simplification

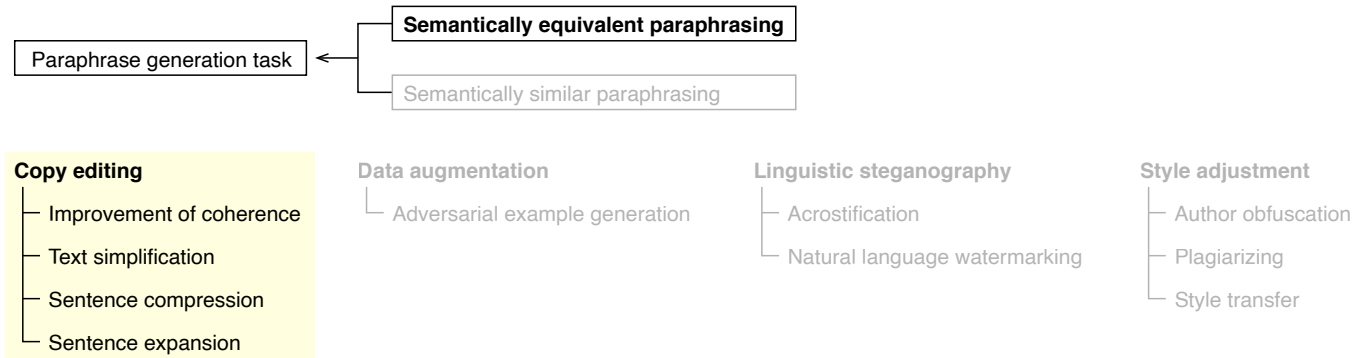
Improving readability of text through meaning-preserving rewrites. [Maddela et al., 2021]

Original: *He settled in London, devoting himself chiefly to practical teaching.*

Paraphrase: *He lived in London. He was a teacher.*

# Paraphrasing Task Taxonomy

## Semantically Equivalent Paraphrasing



## Sentence compression / expansion

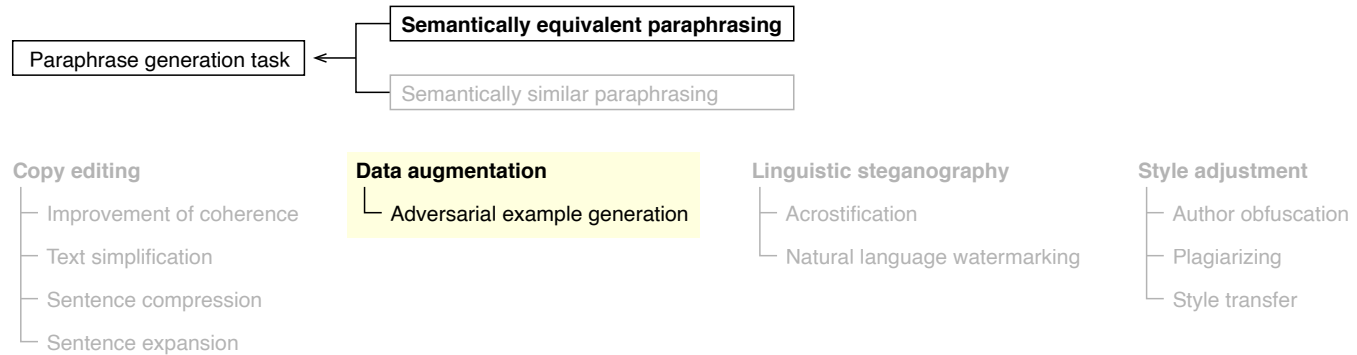
Generating a shorter / longer paraphrase of a sentence. [Filippova et al., 2013]

Original: *The future of the nation is in your hands.*

Paraphrase: *The nation's future is in your hands.*

# Paraphrasing Task Taxonomy

## Semantically Equivalent Paraphrasing



## Adversarial example generation

Modifying a text preserving the ground truth label but changing the prediction label.

[Szegedy et al., 2014]

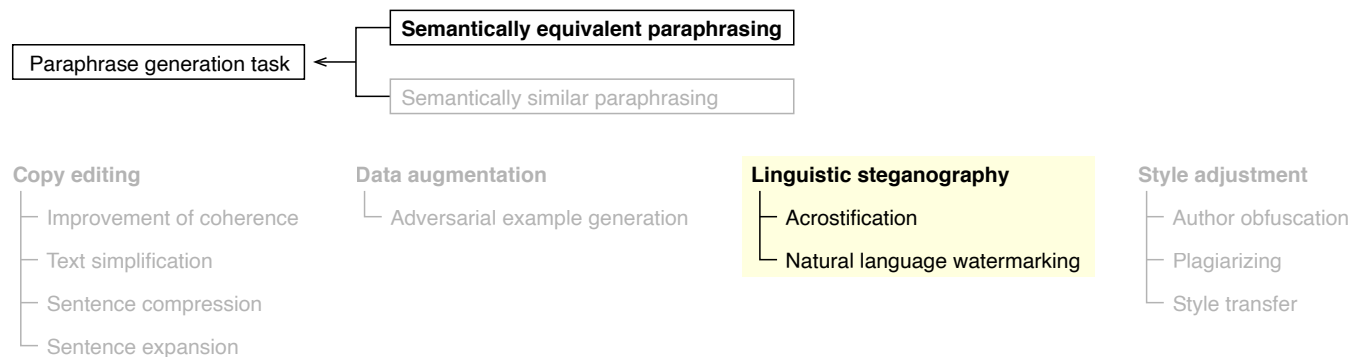
Original: *There is no pleasure in watching a child suffer.*

Paraphrase: *In watching the child suffer, there is no pleasure.*

Predicted sentiment: ■ negative ■ positive

# Paraphrasing Task Taxonomy

## Semantically Equivalent Paraphrasing



## Acrostification

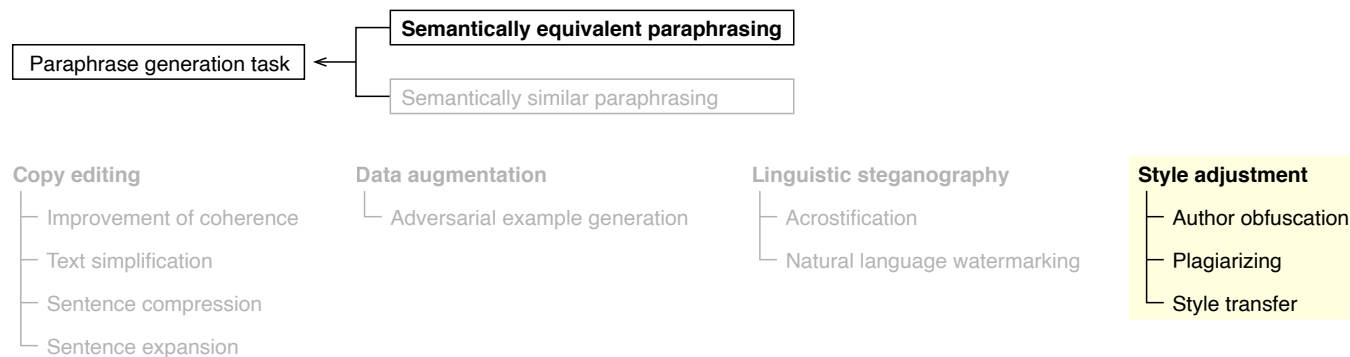
Rewriting a text such that it encodes an acrostic. [Stein et al., 2014]

Original: *To achieve your dreams, stay optimistic and persistent despite doubts. Embrace high expectations and let your light shine.*

Paraphrase: **H**old onto your dream while mindful of time  
**O**ptimism required, let your light shine  
**P**ersistence prevails, while it may cast doubt  
**E**xpectation desired is what it's about.

# Paraphrasing Task Taxonomy

## Semantically Equivalent Paraphrasing



## Author obfuscation

Preventing detection of whether two texts were written by the same author (authorship verification) by altering the text style. [Bevendorff et al., 2019]

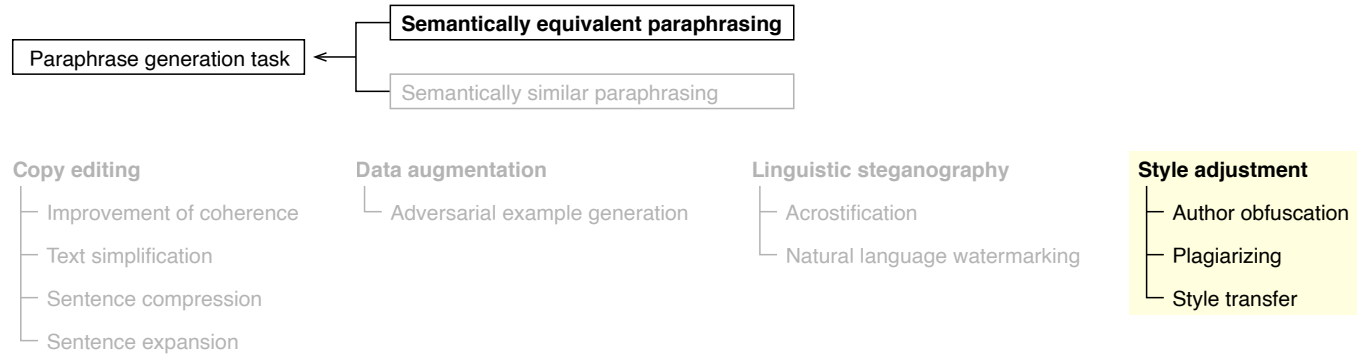
Original: *Three billion people watching the home fleet take off, knowing the skies were open for all the hell that a savage enemy could send!*

Paraphrase: *Three billion people watching the home fleet take off, deciding the skies were resort for all the mischief that a savage enemy could send!*

Detected author: ■ Lester del Rey ■ ?

# Paraphrasing Task Taxonomy

## Semantically Equivalent Paraphrasing



## Style transfer

Changing the style of a text while preserving its semantics. [Krishna et al., 2020]

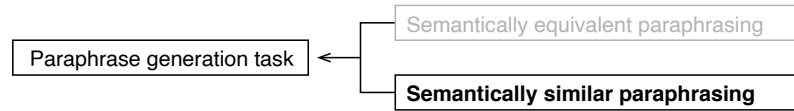
Original: *Yall kissing before marriage?*

Paraphrase: *And you kiss'd before nuptial?*

Style: ■ Tweet ■ Shakespeare

# Paraphrasing Task Taxonomy

## Semantically Similar Paraphrasing



### Context change

- Image recaptioning
- Positive reframing
- Text localization

### Conversational interaction

- Argument repetition
- Question dodging
- Rogierian rhetoric application
- Utterance clarification

### Textual entailment generation

### Information disguise

### Query suggestion

## Image recaptioning

Assigning a new image caption to fit an image into a new context.

Original: *Twelfth century illustration of a man digging.*

Paraphrase: *An English serf at work digging, circa 1170.*

Context:

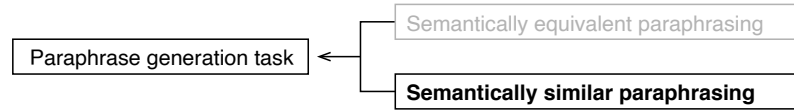
■ Digging

■ Economics of English agriculture in the Middle Ages



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## Positive reframing

Shifting to positive perspective without distorting the underlying meaning.

[Ziems et al., 2022]

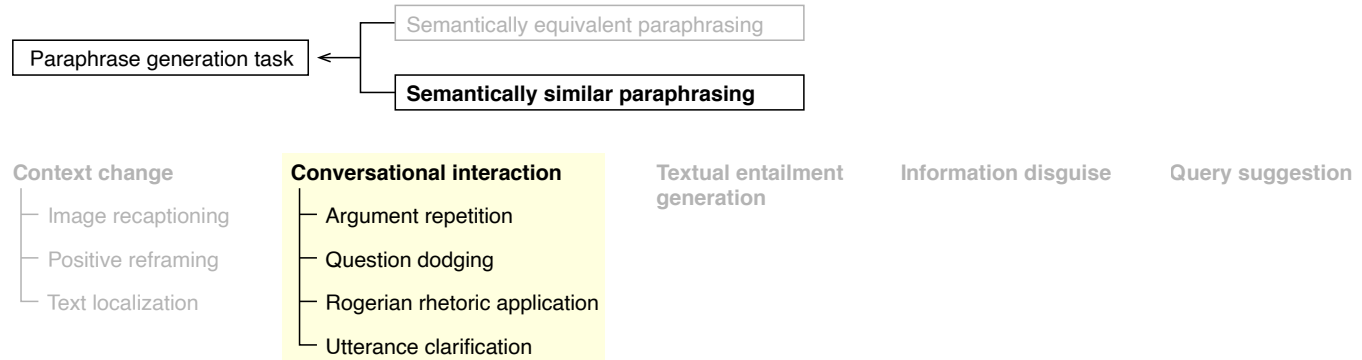
Original: *This was a bland dish.*

Paraphrase: *I've made dishes that are much tastier than this one.*



# Paraphrasing Task Taxonomy

## Semantically Similar Paraphrasing



## Argument repetition

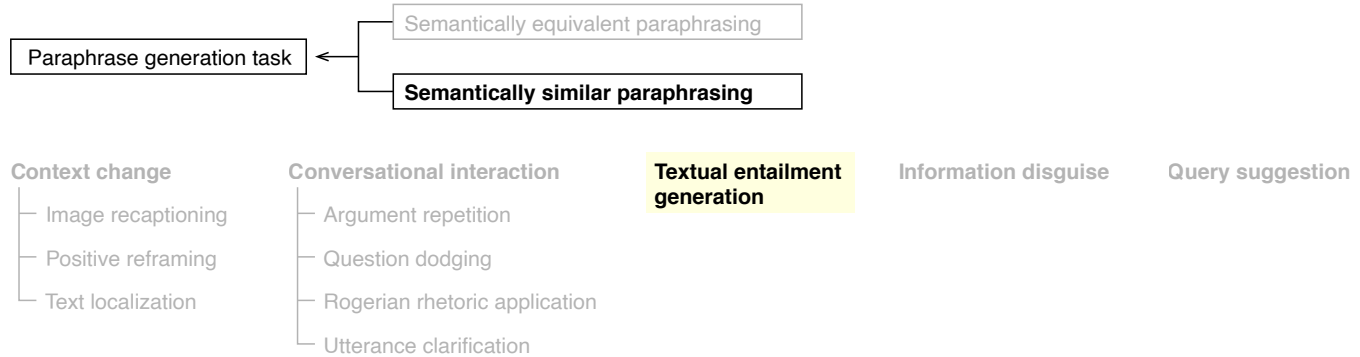
Repeating the same argument within a discourse to make it more convincing.

Original: *The movie “Die Hard” deserves an Oscar.*

Paraphrase: *Other films have potential, but they do not deserve an Oscar like “Die Hard” does.*

# Paraphrasing Task Taxonomy

## Semantically Similar Paraphrasing



## Textual entailment generation

Generating a text which is implied by an original text.

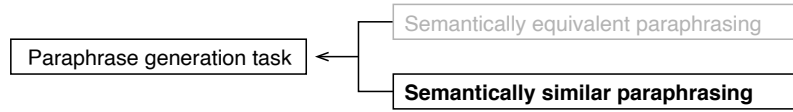
Original: *A woman is doing a cartwheel in the sand next to the beach.*

Paraphrase: *A woman is doing a cartwheel.*

Original  $\models$  Paraphrase

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## Query expansion/suggestion

Suggesting search queries that retain the original search intent.

Original: *why do we yawn*

Paraphrase: *why do we yawn so much*

# Paraphrasing Task Classification

## Experiment: Human Paraphrase Classification

Considered tasks and datasets:

- ❑ **Sentence compression**

  - Google Sentence Compression [Filippova and Altun, 2013]

  - Microsoft Abstractive Compression [Toutanova et al., 2016]

- ❑ **Sentence simplification**

  - TurkCorpus [Xu et al., 2016]

  - WikiLarge [Zhang and Lapata, 2017]

- ❑ **Style transfer**

  - ParaDetox [Logacheva et al., 2022]

  - Bible style transfer [Carlson et al., 2018]

- ❑ **Image recaptioning**

  - MSCOCO [Lin et al., 2015]

  - VizWiz [Gurari et al., 2020]

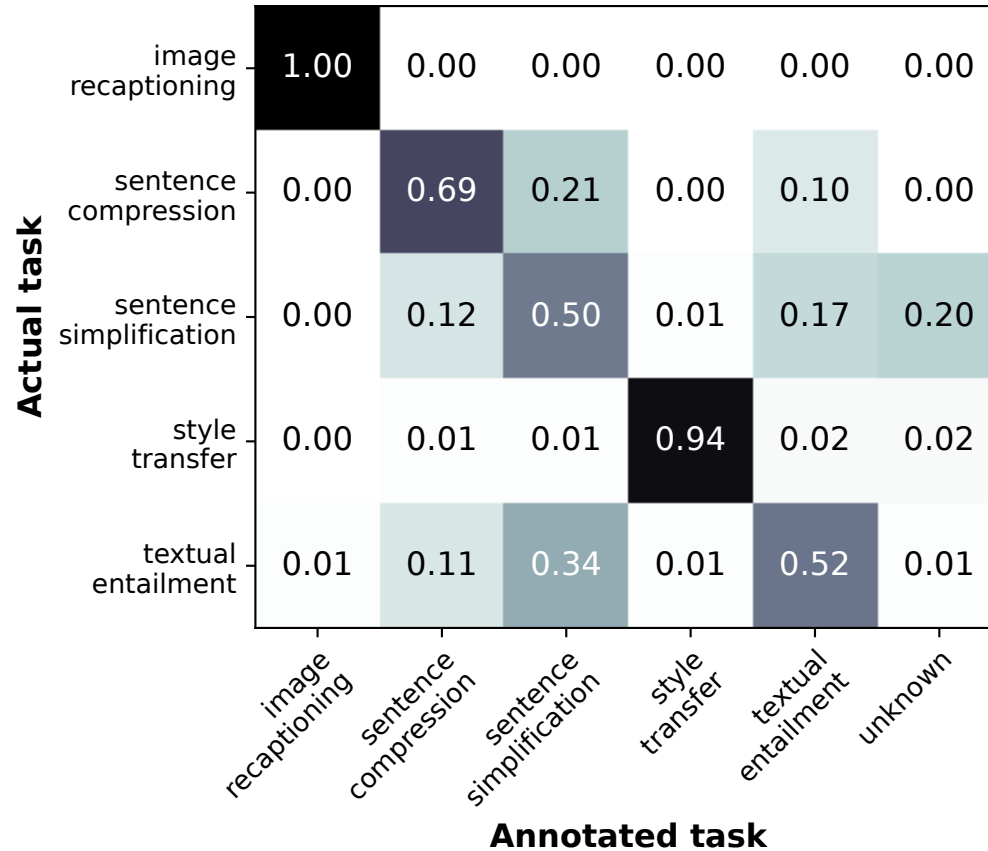
- ❑ **Textual entailment generation**

  - SciTail [Bowman et al., 2015]

  - HELP [Yanaka et al., 2019]

# Paraphrasing Task Classification

## Human Performance



Sampling: 50 random paraphrases per dataset with 100 to 180 characters each.

Performance: F1=0.73

# Paraphrasing Task Classification

## Experiment: Machine Paraphrase Classification

### Paraphrase sampling:

- ❑ 50,000 task-specific paraphrase pairs
- ❑ 80:20 split of training and testing data
- ❑ even distribution of examples from the five paraphrasing tasks

### Feature engineering:

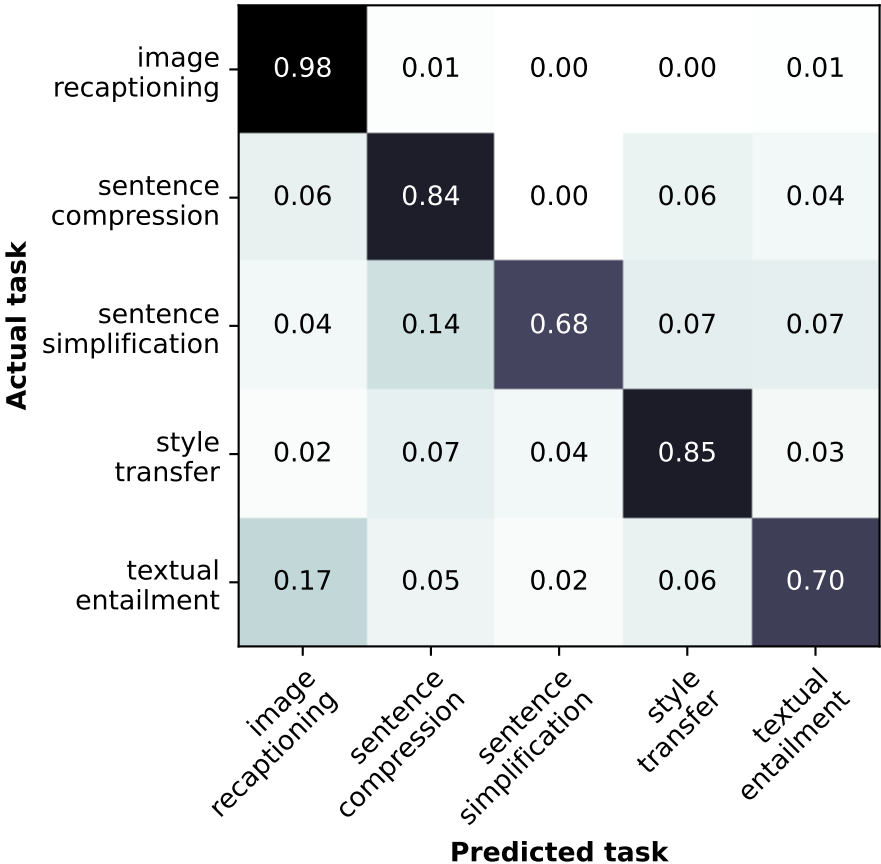
- ❑ Lexical similarity: ROUGE1, BLEU
- ❑ Syntax features: POS tag n-gram frequencies
- ❑ Semantic similarity: Sentence-BERT

### Train a classifier:

- ❑ Random Forest classifier
- ❑ Max. depth of 15

# Paraphrasing Task Classification

## Machine Performance



Sampling: 1,000 random paraphrases per dataset with 100 to 180 characters each.

Performance: Test set: F1=0.81, 5-fold cross-validation: F1=0.82

# Paraphrasing Task Classification

## Experiment: Paraphrase Corpora Inhomogeneity

Analyzing inhomogeneity of known paraphrase corpora:

- ❑ Microsoft Research Paraphrase dataset (MSRPC) [Dolan and Brockett, 2005]
- ❑ TaPaCo [Scherrer, 2020]
- ❑ PAWS [Zhang et al., 2019]
- ❑ Wikipedia-IPC<sub>silver</sub> [Gohsen et al., 2023]



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| Paraphrase Dataset              | Image Recaptioning |               | Sentence Compression |                | Sentence Simplification |               | Style Transfer |               |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| MSRPC                           | 6.7%               | 390           | 32.0%                | 1,858          | 38.6%                   | 2,241         | 11.4%          | 65            |
| PAWS                            | 5.2%               | 3,367         | 24.7%                | 16,194         | <b>62.7%</b>            | 41,004        | 3.7%           | 2,44          |
| TaPaCo                          | 1.8%               | 4,140         | 8.4%                 | 18,949         | 1.0%                    | 2,141         | <b>76.8%</b>   | 172,71        |
| Wikipedia-IPC <sub>silver</sub> | <b>16.3%</b>       | 37,489        | <b>62.0%</b>         | 142,492        | 19.8%                   | 45,535        | 0.2%           | 42            |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>8.6%</b>        | <b>45,386</b> | <b>34.1%</b>         | <b>179,493</b> | <b>17.3%</b>            | <b>90,921</b> | <b>33.5%</b>   | <b>176,24</b> |

# Conclusions

## Contributions:

- ❑ Extensive paraphrase literature review
- ❑ Paraphrasing task taxonomy grounded in the literature
- ❑ Paraphrasing classifier labeling one of five tasks to a paraphrase

## Findings:

- ❑ Humans distinguish task-specific paraphrases with  $F1=0.73$
- ❑ Machines distinguish task-specific paraphrases with  $F1=0.82$
- ❑ Paraphrase corpora are biased towards different paraphrasing tasks

## Future work:

- ❑ Classifier: More tasks, multi-label, test on unseen task-specific paraphrases
- ❑ Investigate paraphrase recognition bias for specific tasks

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**Thank you!**