

SBVR to NL translation pattern

Processing SBVR to Natural language:

Step 1:

The SBVR document is read and transformed into a dictionary. Here each concept is used as a key and the value is the list of rules that apply to the concept.

Step 2:

Based on mutual references and the occurrence of multiple concepts within 1 rule, concepts are divided into groups. These groups combine concepts that lie close together. All concepts are part of at least 1 group, but can also be part of multiple groups.

Step 3:

We order the groups, using a simple greedy algorithm, so that consecutive groups contain a common element, if possible.

Step 4:

For each group a paragraph is written according to the transformation patterns described in the next section "Processing a group into a paragraph".

Step 5:

A text file is created for the output and each paragraph is written to the file.

Processing a group into a paragraph:

Step 1:

The first step is to loop over every concept in the group.

Step 2:

For every concept, we loop over every rule. Here we filter out the rules that contain concepts that are not part of the group. The remaining rules are processed further.

Step 3:

For each rule, we find out the type of rule, the identifier, (eg. 'is component of', 'is of type', ..., etc.) and the target concepts of the rule. Based on the identifier and the target we distinguish between 3 different types of rules: normal rules, generals of a generalization set, specifics of a generalization set.

Step 4:

Process each rule based on the type of rule

Step 4.1:

Process the normal rules

Step 4.1.1:

The identifier is rewritten, to support use in a more natural sentence, in the following ways:

Original notation	New notation
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General concept: {concept}	Is a(c) {concept}
Necessity: .. requires {c + c}	Needs {c + c}
Necessity: .. is a component of {c+c}	Is a component of {c+c}
Possibility: .. is a component of {c+c}	Can be a component of {c+c}
Necessity: .. is composed of {c+c}	Is composed of {c+c}
Possibility: .. is composed of {c+c}	Can be composed of {c+}
Necessity: .. characterizes {c + c}	Characterizes {c + c}
Possibility: .. characterizes {c + c}	Can characterize {c + c}
Necessity: .. is characterized by {c + c}	Is characterized by {c + c}
Possibility: .. is characterized by {c + c}	Can be characterized by {c + c}
Necessity: .. is a member of {c + c}	Is a member of {c + c}
Possibility: .. is a member of {c + c}	Can be a member of {c + c}
Necessity: .. has as members {c + c}	Has as members {c + c}
Possibility: .. has as members {c + c}	Can have as members {c + c}
Necessity: .. is required by {c + c}	Is required by {c + c}
Possibility: .. is required by {c + c}	Can be required by {c + c}
Necessity: .. is associated to {c + c}	Is associated to {c + c}
Possibility: .. is associated to {c + c}	Can be associated to {c + c}
Necessity: .. is connected to {c + c}	Is connected to {c + c}
Possibility: .. is connected to {c + c}	Can be connected to {c + c}

Step 4.1.2:

A sentence is constructed and added to a list of sentences:

A(n) {concept} {identifier} {target}

Step 4.2:

Process the generals of a generalization set

Step 4.2.1

A sentence is constructed based whether the set is disjoint and complete. The constructed sentence is then put in the paragraph. The constructed sentence can be deduced from the original sentence and gets translated in the following way:

Original sentence	New sentence
... exactly one ...	Every {concept} is either a(n) {targets}.
... at least one ...	Every {concept} is at least one {targets}, but can also be multiple at the same time.
... at most one ...	A(n) {concept} can be a(n) {targets}, or another possibility, but only 1 at the same time.
... is a ...	A(n) {concept} can be a(n) {targets}, or another possibility, it can also be multiple at the same time.

Step 4.3:

The rules for a specific of a generalization set are not used in the paragraph.

Step 5:

Sentences constructed in step 4.1 get combined together if they have the same concept and identifier. These new sentences are stored.

Step 6:

Sentences constructed in step 4.1 get combined together if they have the same identifier and targets. These new sentences are stored.

Step 7:

The sentences constructed in steps 5 and 6 are combined with sentences that remained unchanged in steps 5 and 6. All these sentences are added to the paragraph.