A key challenge in Literary Machine Translation is that the meaning of a sentence can be different from the sum of meanings of all the words it possesses. This poses the problem of requiring large amounts of consistently labelled training data across a variety of unsages and languages. In this paper, we propose that we can economically train machine translation models to identify and paraphrase such sentences by leveraging the language independent framework of Šabdavyāpāra (Function of a Word), from Literary Sciences in Samskṛtām, and its definition of lakṣyārtha (‘Indicated’ meaning). An Indicated meaning exists where there is incompatibility among the literal meanings of the words in a sentence (irrespective of language). The framework defines seven categories of Indicated meaning and its characteristics. As a pilot, we identified 300 such sentences from literary and regular usage, labelled them and trained a 2d Convolutional Neural Network to categorise a sentence based on the category of Indicated meaning and finetuned a T5 to paraphrase them. We then used these paraphrased sentences as input into Google Translate and compared this with Google Translate’s translation before paraphrasing using BLEU scores against an expected reference translation. The BLEU scores improved significantly with the paraphrasing by the T5 trained on Indicated meaning sentences.

Keywords: Indicated meaning, Literary Machine Translation, language independent, T5, Convolutional Neural Network, paraphrase.
Google Translate’s translation is more consistent across multiple languages. Refer to Table 2 for sample translations of the paraphrased sentence.

| Language | Google Translate’s Translation |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| Hindi    | gaat-e-gaate khush se hum utte m e khud ko bholi gaya |
| Bengali  | gan gaya anandita, amit niyek a bhule ya'i |
| Kannada  | ṭhāvyāl ākārābhā ṭhāvyālāḥ ṭhāvyālāḥ śānṭiśāncānu, nānu namannē maretiddēne |
| Telugu   | maracippōyānu, nēnu nannē maracippōyānu |
| Italian  | Felicissimo di cantare, mi dimentico di me stesso |
| German   | Überglücklich vom Singen vergesse ich mich selbst |

There are many such sentences across literary works where the sum of meanings of all the words in a given sentence, does not necessarily provide the meaning of the sentence. In all such cases, an appropriate paraphrasing should make machine translation more accurate. To train machine learning models for paraphrasing of such sentences before translation, we are faced with the challenge of creating large datasets for training across different types of usages, figures or speech etc., and across multiple languages.

Recent related works: Recent research in the applying machine translation models to literary works is broadly focused on:

- training the models to identify and paraphrase metaphors to their literal meanings (Jerry Lui, 2020) (Rui Mao, 2018) leveraging word embeddings
- modifications to existing machine translation models for classification of consistency, pronoun resolution, and tone/register error types to consider context of previous sentences or even the whole story, to improve quality of literary machine translation (Matusov, 2019)
- the role of referential cohesion to improve Literary Machine Translation (Rob Voigt, 2012)

However, to our knowledge, there is lack of a holistic approach that encompasses a variety of the challenges presented in Literary Machine Translation in a manner consistent across languages.

**Our approach:** To overcome this challenge, we seek inspiration from kāvyāśāstra, the Science of Literary Works / Poetics, in Sanskrit. Various texts in Sanskrit in this domain, provide comprehensive and lucid frameworks to understand literary works. A variety of concepts discussed in these texts are language independent as well. Of many such concepts, kāvyāśāstra lays much importance to a word and its meaning. It emphasises that a word and its meaning depend on the speaker, the listener, and the tone. At times, it is understood with the context too. This framework of understanding the meaning is called śabdavyāpāra (as explained in kāvyaprakāśa) and it categorises the word and its meaning broadly into three types, namely,

- vācakāh (वाचकः - Expressive) word with vācyārthaḥ (वाच्यार्थः: Expressed) meaning or literal / direct / primary meaning
- lākṣaṇikāh (लक्षणिकः - Indicative) word with lakṣyārthaḥ (लक्ष्यार्थः - Indicated meaning)
- vyañjakaḥ (व्यञ्जकः - Suggestive) word with vyāngyārthaḥ (व्यंग्यार्थः - Suggested) meaning.

The Indicated meaning from the above framework provides a very fundamental categorisation of words which covers a variety of

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3 वक्तृ-बोध्यव-काकृत्वं सम्भवम्। vaktṛ-bodhavya-kakūntaṃ sambandhaḥ. The relationship between speaker, listener, tone.

4 स्याद्-वाचको लक्षणिक: शब्देत्व व्यञ्जकलक्षितः। syādvācako lākṣaṇikāḥ saḥdotra vyāñjakastridhā. The words are of 3 types – Expressive, Indicative and Suggestive.
results we achieved in our pilot. In section 4, we conclude and highlight the other use cases of NLP where the identification and paraphrasing of Indicated meaning can be applicable. In Appendices we provide some examples of the seven categories of Indicated meaning.

2 Śabdavyāpāra (Function of a Word) and lakṣyārtha (Indicated meaning)

As stated above, according to Śabdavyāpāra framework meanings words convey are categorised as vācyārtha (Expressed meaning), lakṣyārtha (Indicated meaning) and vyāgyārtha (Suggested meaning). While ‘Expressed meaning’ is the straightforward sum of meanings of all the words in the sentence, in ‘Indicated meaning’ or ‘Suggested meaning’ the meaning of the sentence is not the sum total of the meanings of all the words and differ based on the various nuances of language, local culture etc.,

Expressive: That which denotes the direct conventional (or dictionary) meaning is the Expressive word. In ordinary parlance, a word denotes something by convention of the given language. Where the conventional denotation is not known, there is no comprehension of the meaning. Thus, when the conventional denotation is apprehended directly, without the intervention of any other agency, the word is said to be ‘Expressive’ of the denotation or meaning. In a sentence the words also need to satisfy three conditions to be able to express the meaningful sentence. They need to have ‘mutual requirement’ as in all of them are needed, they need to be ‘compatible’ with each other and there needs to be ‘proximity’ meaning certain words need to be next to each other. Consider the sentence “The student is studying mathematics”. It is very clearly understood what each word is denoting, hence each word is expressive. Moreover, they satisfy the three conditions of ‘mutual requirement’, ‘compatibility’ and ‘proximity’; therefore, the sentence is a meaningful sentence. The meaning of such a sentence obtained by the meanings of the ‘Expressive’ words is called the ‘Expressed’

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5 We picked 300 sentences from a combination of Rabindranath Tagore’s Gitanjali, kālidāsa’s kumārasambhavam and śāstra texts of dhvanyāloka, kāvyaprakāśa.

6 आकाङ्क्षा-वाक्यार्था-सणिणधवशाद ् वक्ष्यमािस्वरूपानां पदार्ाथनां समन्ये तात्पयाथर्ो तात्पयाथर्ो वाक्यार्थाः पदार्थानां समन्ये तात्पयाथर्ो तात्पयाथर्ो वाक्यार्थाः। – आकाङ्क्षाः-वाक्यार्थाः-सणिणधवशाद ् वक्ष्यमािस्वरूपानां पदार्थानां समन्ये तात्पयाथर्ो तात्पयाथर्ो वाक्यार्थाः।

yogyata-sannydhivasad vakṣyamāṇasvarūpānāṃ padārthānāṃ samanvaye tātparyārtho viśeṣavapuḥ apatāthropi vākyārtho. When the denotations of different words become related together though ‘mutual requirement’, compatibility and ‘proximity’ there appears in the shape of the ‘meaning of the sentence’ which is not expressed by any single word constituting the sentence.
meaning. It can also be referred to as the ‘Primary’ meaning of the sentence.

**Indicative** 7 : When the ‘Primary’ (or ‘Expressed’) meaning does not make sense (because of incompatibility), another meaning, which is in close affinity to what the word is denoting, is implied by the word. Such a meaning is called the ‘Indicated’ meaning that such a word is the ‘Indicative’ word in the given sentence. Consider the sentence “Drunk by the joy of singing, I forget myself”. Here when we put together the ‘Primary’ meanings of all the words we see there is incompatibility as joy is not a physical drink that one can get drunk on. The word drunk here implies the meaning overtaken or completely filled with. Using this implied meaning of the word drunk, we arrive at the meaning “Overjoyed by singing, I forget myself”. This is called the ‘Indicated’ meaning and the word drunk is the ‘Indicative’ word in this sentence. This process of implying the ‘Indicated’ meaning is called ‘Indication’. The ‘Indicated’ meaning of such a sentence makes the import of the sentence much clearer and is also very easily translatable by a machine learning model to any other language.

**Suggestive:** Where the ‘Primary’ meaning is clear, there can also exist a ‘Suggested’ meaning. Such a word is called the ‘Suggestive’ word. The ‘Suggested’ meaning can also exist along with the ‘Indicated’ meaning. Since the focus of this paper is on the ‘Indicated’ meaning and its application, we do not go into the details of this category.

### 2.1 Various types of ‘Indication’

**‘Usage’ and ‘Special Purpose’ Indication** 8 : The process of imposing the ‘Indicated’ meaning is done either based on ‘Usage’ or for a ‘Special Purpose’, and as such these are the 2 categories of ‘Indication’.

**Example of ‘Indication’ on the basis of ‘Usage’:** Consider the sentence “Do not beat around the bush when expressing your viewpoint”. Here the primary meaning of words ‘do not beat around the bush’ are incompatible with the words ‘expressing your viewpoint’. However, it is common usage that means ‘do not waste time by giving lengthy and cyclical explanations. This ‘Indicated’ meaning conveys the meaning of the sentence appropriately. A lot of idioms in English language, for example, fall into this category of ‘Indication based on Usage’.

**Example of ‘Indication’ on the basis of ‘Special Purpose’**: Consider the sentence “Her face had blooming smiles at the thought of meeting her lover”. Here the ‘Primary’ meaning of the word ‘bloating’ is to be flowering and this is incompatible with the sense of the sentence which is describing the expression of a person’s face. The word ‘bloating’ is implying the ‘Indicated’ meaning in excess / lot of / big, which is in affinity with its ‘Primary’ meaning. Read with the ‘Indicated’ meaning, the sentence means that “Big smiles appeared on her face at the thought of meeting her lover”. Moreover, the implication of the ‘Indicated’ meaning also has a ‘Special Purpose’ of referring to the beauty, radiance etc. in an excessive way that appeared on her face at the thought of meeting her lover.

While ‘Indication’ on the basis of ‘Usage’ has no further sub-categories, ‘Indication’ on the basis of ‘Special Purpose’ has 6 sub-categories.

**Six sub-categories of ‘Indication’ on the basis of ‘Special Purpose’**: ‘Indication’ on the basis of ‘Special Purpose’ is further categorised into two9, namely, ‘Pure’ and ‘Qualitative’ Indications. When the ‘Indication’ relies upon similarity / similitude it is called ‘Qualitative’ Indication and when it is based upon other kinds of relationships (like cause-effect and not on similarity / similitude) it is called ‘Pure’ Indication.

**‘Qualitative’ Indication:** Consider the sentence “Her eyes are lotus petals”. In this sentence, the qualities of lotus petals are being imposed upon the eyes of the person and this is to show the similarities in their qualities, for example this lady has big eyes and in the shape of lotus petals. Here the imposed meaning is the quality of the lotus petal that is being imposed upon the eyes of the lady. This is an example of ‘Qualitative’

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7 मुख्यार्थबाधे तद्योगे – mukhyārthabhāde tadyoge - When there is incompatibility in the Primary meaning and the other meaning has affinity with the Primary meaning
8 रुढिता ध प्रयोजनात् – rūḍhitoḍha prayojanāt - The Indication is of 2 types, based on Usage and based on Special Purpose
9 भेदाविमो प्रासादसम्बन्धान्तरस्त्रत्वं bhedāvimau ca sādṛṣyāsambandhāntaratatha. These 2 are different. One is by similarity and other by other relationships
Indication. An appropriate paraphrased sentence could be ‘Her eyes are big and beautiful like lotus petals’.

Qualitative Indication can be of two types, namely, ‘Super-imponent Qualitative’ Indication and ‘Intro-susceptive Qualitative’ Indication, based on how the imposed qualities and that which they are being imposed upon are expressed in the sentence.

1. ‘Super-imponent’ Qualitative Indication: When what is being imposed and that which it is being imposed upon are mentioned separately in the sentence it is called a ‘Super-imponent’. The sentence “Her eyes are lotus petals” is an example of ‘Super-imponent Qualitative’ Indication as what is being imposed (lotus petals) and that which it is being imposed upon (eyes) are mentioned separately. (akin to a simile)

2. ‘Intro-susceptive’ Qualitative Indication: When what is being imposed consumes (takes within itself) that which it is being imposed upon it is called ‘Intro-susceptive’. Both are not mentioned separately in the sentence and only what is being imposed is mentioned. Considering the same example of the lady with big and beautiful eyes, if someone were to look at the lady’s beautiful eyes and say “They are lotus petals”, then this becomes an example of ‘Intro-Susceptive Qualitative’ Indication (akin to a metaphor). Here that which is being imposed (lotus petals) has consumed that which it is being imposed upon (eyes). A paraphrased sentence will be “Her eyes, which are big and beautiful, appear to be lotus petals themselves.”

Pure Indication

Pure Indication is of four types, namely, Inclusive Indication, Indicative Indication, Super-imponent Pure Indication and Intro-susceptive Pure Indication.

3. ‘Inclusive Pure’ Indication: When the implication of the ‘Secondary’ meaning is for the sake of completing the ‘Primary’ meaning itself, it is called Inclusive Indication. Consider the sentence “Your pizza is on its way”. Here, the pizza that has been ordered cannot be travelling on its own, there is an unwritten actor present in the sentence, the pizza delivery person. The word pizza without losing its ‘Primary’ meaning is implying an actor to complete the ‘Primary’ meaning itself. This is ‘Inclusive’ Indication. A paraphrased sentence elaborating the Indicated meaning could be “The pizza delivery boy, along with your pizza, is on his way”.

4. ‘Indicative Pure’ Indication: When the ‘Primary’ meaning is replaced by the ‘Secondary’ meaning, it is called Indicative Indication. Consider the sentence “She jumps to conclusions”. Here, the Primary meaning of the word jumps is replaced by as Secondary meaning ‘to form quickly’. Hence this is an Indicative Indication. A paraphrased sentence elaborating the Indicated meaning will be “She forms conclusions very quickly”.

5. ‘Super-imponent Pure Indication: When the Indication is based upon a relationship like cause-effect (and not similarity / similitude) between the imposed and what it is being imposed, and both are stated separately in the sentence it is ‘Super-imponent Pure’ indication. Consider the sentence “Knowledge is power”. Here there is a cause-effect relationship between Knowledge (that which it is being imposed upon) and Power (imposed). Moreover, both are being stated clearly in the sentence. Hence it is a ‘Super-imponent Pure’ Indication. An appropriate paraphrased sentence will be “Knowledge gives power”.

6. ‘Intro-susceptive Pure’ Indication: This is like the ‘Super-imponent Pure’ Indication but the imposed and that which it is being imposed upon are not stated separately in the sentence. When someone described a knowledgeable person and says “He has the power”, it is an example of Intro-susceptive Pure Indication as Power (imposed) consumes the word Knowledge (that which it is being imposed upon) and both the words are stated not stated separately in the sentence. An appropriate paraphrased sentence will be “He has the power of knowledge.”
**Seven categories of Indication:** The two types of ‘Qualitative’ Indication and four\(^{13}\) types of ‘Pure’ Indication make up the six categories of Indication based on Special Purpose. Along with the ‘Usage based’ Indication there are in total seven categories of Indication. The categorisation helps understanding the sentences and also provides a distinctive way for paraphrasing the sentence for each of the categories. The characteristics of the seven categories discussed above have been summarised into a flow chart presented in Appendix I. A few more examples of the seven categories of Indication are provided in Appendix II.

### Table 3: Typical patterns that can be observed in Paraphrasing sentences, based on the category of Indication

| Category of Indication | Typical Pattern of Paraphrase |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Super-imponent Qualitative | Typically ‘like’ or an equivalent word is added in the sentence as the Indication is based on comparison |
| Intro-susceptive Qualitative | Similar to above along with the addition of the words that are left out in the sentence. This needs context in which the sentence as the speaker would leave out some of the words |
| Inclusive Pure | A related word(s) are added to explicitly mention the unspoken actor |
| Indicative Pure | A secondary meaning of the word replaced the word in the sentence where this indication exists. This secondary meaning is typically very closely related to the primary meaning of the word |
| Super-imponent Pure | Words are added to show the relationship between the imposed and this which it is being imposed. Typically this relationship between the words is quite commonly used |
| Super-imponent Pure | Same as above along with the addition of the words that are left out in the sentence. This needs context in which the sentence as the speaker would leave out some of the words |
| Usage based | Does not have any pattern as it is based on widely accepted usage in the given language. |

3 Application of the lakṣyārtha concept to Machine Learning models

If we notice the paraphrasing of the sentences with Indicated meaning, there are patterns that are correlated to the category of the Indicated meaning, in most cases except in the ‘Usage based’ Indication. At a high level the patterns of paraphrasing are summarised in Table 3 below.

Inspired by the correlation between the paraphrasing and the category of the Indication, we embarked on the pilot of training the Machine Learning models to do this paraphrasing before translation by Google Translate. Given the comprehensiveness and the fundamental nature of the categorisation, we believe that the training can be achieved with relatively small datasets. Hence, we attempted the pilot with a very small dataset. We broke the pilot down into three steps.

**Step 1: Identify the existence of an Indicated meaning in the sentence.** This means that the model needs to identify the incompatibility between the words in a sentence. To achieve this, we trained a multi-layer perceptron of 3 layers and a 2d Convolutional Neural Network (CNN2d) with filter sizes of 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 for binary classification on a dataset of 400 example sentences (100 without Indicated meaning and 300 with Indicated meaning). We used 320 of these sentences for training and 80 sentences for testing. While the multi-layer perceptron trained to 70% test accuracy, CNN2d achieved 78% test accuracy. This was on expected lines as the existence of Indicated meaning is identified based on incompatibility between words (refer footnote 4). The CNN2d is comparing groups of adjacent words of length 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 in its filters to what has been explained in Section 2, there are 4 types of Pure Indication. We took the choice of the categorisation that we think is most appropriate for the Machine Translation.

\(^{13}\) Commentators of kāvyaprakāśa also explain that Inclusive and Indicative Indications are further divided into Super-impotent and Intro-susceptive each, giving rise to the 4 Pure Indications. Either as per this categorisation or as per
map the incompatibility. Sample classification results by the CNN2d trained on our dataset of 400 sentences are presented below in Table 4.

| Sl No | Sentence | Classification – Indication Exists (Yes/No) | Trained CNN2d | Actual |
|-------|----------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|--------|
| 1     | My heart spreads its wings                   | Yes            | Yes           |        |
| 2     | Master is knowledge                           | Yes            | Yes           |        |
| 3     | He is speaking the truth                      | Yes            | No            |        |
| 4     | Truth is bitter to swallow                    | No             | Yes           |        |
| 5     | I can run fast                                | No             | No            |        |
| 6     | On this stormy night the sky groans           | Yes            | Yes           |        |
| 7     | It is raining heavily today                   | No             | No            |        |
| 8     | He is a walking encyclopaedia                 | Yes            | Yes           |        |
| 9     | He stole her heart                            | Yes            | Yes           |        |
| 10    | The water is blue in colour                   | No             | No            |        |

Step 2: Identify the category of Indicated meaning in a sentence. We labelled the 400 sentences with eight labels (one label for Expressive and one each for category of Indication per the framework explained in Section 2) and trained the CNN2d for multi-classification. 320 sentences were used for training and 80 were used for testing. The model achieved 72% test accuracy. Sample classification results by the CNN2d trained on our dataset are presented below in Table 4.

Step 3: Paraphrase the sentence with elaborating the Indicated meaning based on the category of Indicated meaning. We finetuned a pre-trained Google’s T5 model to paraphrase sentences with our custom dataset of sentences with Indicated meaning. We used the patterns described in Table 3 to create our custom dataset. Our dataset contained 250 training sentences and 50 testing sentences. We refer to this finetuned T5 model as the T5-I.

We then used the T5-I paraphrased sentences as input to Google Translate for translation to various languages.

Table 4: CNN2d classification of whether an Indicated meaning exists in the given sentence on our dataset are presented below in Table 5.

| Sl No | Sentence | Category of Indication | Trained CNN2d | Actual |
|-------|----------|-------------------------|---------------|--------|
| 1     | He is stretching the truth                     | Indicative Pure     | Indicative Pure |        |
| 2     | He is a walking encyclopaedia                   | Usage Based         | Super-imponent Qualitative |
| 3     | On this stormy night the sky groans            | Inclusive Pure      | Inclusive Pure |
| 4     | This is a magnificent new shirt                 | Expressive          | Expressive     |
| 5     | Health is wealth                                | Super-imponent Qualitative | Super-imponent Qualitative |
| 6     | His radiance was visible from far              | Indicative Pure     | Indicative Pure |
| 7     | The bus is arriving late                       | Inclusive Pure      | Inclusive Pure |
| 8     | Master is knowledge                            | Super-imponent Qualitative | Super-imponent Pure |
| 9     | My heart spreads its wings                      | Super-imponent Qualitative | Intro-susceptive Qualitative |
| 10    | Truth is bitter to swallow                     | Expressive          | Indicative Pure |
| 11    | Your pizza is on its way                       | Expressive          | Inclusive Pure |
| 12    | Time heals everyone                            | Intro-susceptive Qualitative | Intro-susceptive Qualitative |

Table 5: CNN2d classification of a given sentence based on the type of Indicated meaning it contains.
languages. We then used BLEU ¹⁴ (Bilingual Evaluation Understudy) score to compare the translation with and without T5-I paraphrasing. For the purpose of this pilot we used translation to three Indian languages – Telugu, Hindi, Kannada. We used a typical human translation of the sentences in these 3 languages as reference for calculation the BLEU scores. Here, we present the comparison of translation with and without the paraphrasing by T5-I for a few validation sentences along with the respective BLEU scores.

| Original Sentence | Expected Translation | Paraphrased Sentence (by T5-I) | Google Translate’s Translation Of | BLEU Score | Paraphrased Sentence | BLEU Score |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| She was showered with blessings | ఆమె చాలా ఆశీస్సు పందంద / ఉదమి బహుత సారీ ఆశీర్వాదములు లేయాడు / అయితే ఆశీర్వాదములు ఉపయోగించాడు. | She received lots of blessings | Google Translate’s Translation Of | 0.54 | ఆమె చాలా ఆశీస్సు పందంద | 0.70 |
| He stretched the truth | అతడు అబద్‌ధమ ఆడాడు / ఉసనే ఝూల్ బాలా / అవను సత్‌యం విసించింది | He used falsehood | | | | |

| Original Sentence: I buy peace of mind by being silent | Expected Translation: నేన్న మౌనంగా ఉండడం ద్వారా మనశాశంతంతన్ను కొన్నదం / ముझే చుప రహింది మన శాంథానికి విసించాడు. | Paraphrased Sentence (by T5-I): My peace of mind comes by being silent | Google Translate’s Translation Of | BLEU Score | Paraphrased Sentence | BLEU Score |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| I buy peace of mind by being silent | నేన్న మౌనంగా ఉండడం ద్వారా మనశాశంతంతన్ను కొన్నదం / ముజే చుప రహింంది | | | | | |

14 BLEU (BiLingual Evaluation Understudy) is a metric for automatically evaluating machine-translated text. The BLEU score is a number between zero and one that measures the similarity of the machine-translated text to a set of high quality reference translations. A value of 0 means that the machine-translated output has no overlap with the reference translation (low quality) while a value of 1 means there is perfect overlap with the reference translations (high quality).
4 Conclusion

Where the CNN2d correctly identified the existence of Indication, it performed very well in identifying the sub-categories of Indication except in the case of the two Super-imponent Indications. We believe this because of the lack of equal number of examples across categories in our training dataset. The improvement in BLEU score achieved for translations with paraphrasing by T5-I is significant and encouraging. The difference in the translation with and without T5-I paraphrasing was very evident in more complicated literary usages of sentences (and not just metaphors).

For the purpose of the pilot we trained blackbox implementations of CNN2d and T5-base in with a small dataset. We believe fine-tuning of the model architecture and a limited increase in the dataset can improve accuracy of the models for paraphrasing and translating sentences in Literary works with Indicated meaning to a higher level of accuracy. Where word embeddings are available the trained models should also work across languages.

There are other use cases as well, where understanding the real intent of a sentence depends on understanding of the Indicated meaning, including dialogue systems, sentiment analysis and emotion analysis.

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