

Neural Language Models for the Multilingual, Transcultural, and Multimodal Semantic Web

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Abstract. A vision of a truly multilingual Semantic Web has found strong support with the Linguistic Linked Open Data community. Standards, such as OntoLex-Lemon, highlight the importance of explicit linguistic modeling in relation to ontologies and knowledge graphs. Nevertheless, there is room for improvement in terms of automation, usability, and interoperability. Neural Language Models have achieved several breakthroughs and successes considerably beyond Natural Language Processing (NLP) tasks and recently also in terms of multimodal representations. Several paths naturally open up to port these successes to the Semantic Web, from automatically translating linguistic information associated with structured knowledge resources to multimodal question-answering with machine translation. Language is also an important vehicle for culture, an aspect that deserves considerably more attention. Building on existing approaches, this article envisions joint forces between Neural Language Models and Semantic Web technologies for multilingual, transcultural, and multimodal information access and presents open challenges and opportunities in this direction.

Keywords: Neural Networks, Multilingual Representations, Cross-Linguistic Modeling

1. Introduction

One central endeavor of the Semantic Web (SW) [1] is intelligent access to heterogeneous and distributed sources of knowledge. However, limiting this access to natural languages predominant in the world inevitably creates biases and hegemonies. Supporters of a multilingual SW can account for several successes to overcome the language barrier, from multilingual structured knowledge resources, such as BabelNet [2] and Framester [3], to multilingual methods and applications (cf. e.g. [4]). Nevertheless, approaches that further improve the level of automation, usability, and interoperability are required.

This article proposes a vision that is based on Neural Language Models (NLMs) to foster a multilingual,

transcultural, and multimodal Semantic Web. Its contribution is a detailed exploration of this vision based on existing approaches and an outline of currently valid challenges and envisioned opportunities, which provides a solid starting point for the Semantic Web and NLP community to initiate and/or advance such interdisciplinary research.

A language model is designed to assign probabilities to an input sequence, i.e., learn a joint probability function of sequences of signs. Based on this idea, powerful Natural Language Processing (NLP) applications from machine translation (e.g. [5]) and natural language generation (e.g. [6]) to textual entailment (e.g. [7, 8]) have been proposed.

NLMs learn implicit semantic representations of sequences on their hidden layer(s), resulting in a dense

1 real-valued vector for each word, phrase, sentence,
2 document, or knowledge base triple, which turned out
3 to be a powerful representation. Such embeddings have
4 been applied to a large variety of traditional SW tasks,
5 from link prediction to ontology alignment [9]. Recent
6 NLMs have provided a strong backbone to many Arti-
7 ficial Intelligence (AI) applications that go beyond tra-
8 ditional NLP tasks, see for instance [10] for a wide
9 range of tasks, including a new best performance on
10 the Winograd Schema Challenge. Resolving pronouns
11 in such schemas requires world knowledge, such as
12 spatio-temporal relations and mental states.

13 Regarding automation and usability of SW tech-
14 nologies, NLMs have successfully been applied to
15 translating from natural language to natural language
16 but also to ontology representation [11] and structured
17 query [12] languages. Automatically translating natu-
18 ral language questions to queries can improve the us-
19 ability of SW query interfaces. However, the usage
20 of NLMs goes considerably beyond translating lan-
21 guages, structured or unstructured. Neural Machine
22 Translation (NMT) based on NLMs has even been ap-
23 plied to noise-tolerant RDFS reasoning [13].

24 Language enables communication and at the same
25 time serves as a vehicle for cultural and social iden-
26 tity. This function of natural language should find con-
27 sideration in approaches to the multilingual Semantic
28 Web by building on decades of research on cross-
29 cultural and transcultural communication (e.g. [14]).
30 NLMs potentially provide interesting methods to port
31 information learned for one language and culture to an-
32 other in form of domain adaptation and transfer learn-
33 ing [15, 16]. Nevertheless, a more thorough basis is
34 required to capture cultural aspects, such as cognitive
35 principles guiding our communication.

36 Communication in natural language is by no means
37 confined to textual boundaries and can be signed, spo-
38 ken, or written. This calls for multimodal represen-
39 tations of language in relation to SW technologies,
40 which finds strong support in state-of-the-art language
41 modeling. Recent advances of NLMs provide power-
42 ful approaches that allow flexible alignments between
43 text and video [17] and translate directly from speech
44 to speech without a need for textual transcriptions [18].

45 In short, this vision goes beyond plurality of lan-
46 guage and envisions multilingual, transcultural, and
47 multimodal information access backed by NLMs and
48 the Semantic Web. As preliminaries, this article first
49 briefly defines language models and the Multilingual
50 Semantic Web. The sections Multilingual, Transcul-
51 tural, and Multimodal detail existing joint approaches

1 on different SW tasks, each of which is followed by
2 a description of the challenges and opportunities for
3 joining language modeling and SW approaches. Nei-
4 ther of these can be fully accounted for in this article,
5 but are detailed to the point of grounding envisioned
6 future research directions.
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8
9

10 2. Language Model: A Brief Definition 11

12 Language modeling has been key to the success of
13 NLP applications and tasks, such as machine transla-
14 tion, speech recognition, question-answering, spelling
15 correction and many more. A language model (LM)
16 predicts a probability of a previously unseen sequence
17 of words based on a preceding learned probability dis-
18 tribution over the whole vocabulary of the training cor-
19 pus. In general, the joint probability of a sequence is
20 decomposed as the product of conditional probabili-
21 ties of co-occurring words, two in the case of bigrams,
22 three in the case of trigrams, and so on. Smoothing is
23 a procedure to avoid zero probabilities due to unknown
24 words (cf. e.g. [19] for more details).
25

26 Neural language models (NLMs) can learn dis-
27 tributed representations without smoothing and gen-
28 eralize well across contexts. Training tasks generally
29 consist in predicting a center word of a sequence given
30 its context words (skip-gram) or predicting a context
31 given a center word (CBOW), which were popularly
32 introduced by [20]. Both tasks train word embeddings
33 as values of their hidden layers and the base methods
34 have been extended to train vector representations of
35 knowledge graph triples (e.g. [21]).
36

37 A common architectural style is that of encoder-
38 decoder, either of which can be independent mod-
39 els. One recent best-performer in machine translation,
40 the Transformer model [5], has soon been propagated
41 to many NLP tasks, from multi-task approaches [10]
42 to text-video combinations [17]. A Transformer com-
43 bines multi-head attention, that is, a mechanism to sin-
44 gle out central words in sequences for given queries,
45 and feedforward layers in an encoder-decoder archi-
46 tecture. Frequently, this architecture is combined with
47 Byte Pair Encodings (PBE), a form of data compres-
48 sion [22] that iteratively merges most frequent charac-
49 ters or character sequences with a single, unused byte.
50 Since it evaluates words on character-level it strongly
51 mitigates the problem of unknown words.

3. Multilingual Semantic Web: A Long-Standing Endeavor

For several decades multiple research endeavors [4, 23] have made it their mission to provide a truly multilingual SW. To this end, algorithms and systems are required that help overcome linguistic and national boundaries, to grant information access to users of different cultures and languages. Limiting such access to languages spoken by majorities inevitably creates a bias. The SW, with its language-independent representation of knowledge, provides an excellent anchor point for multilingual, transcultural, and multimodal information access.

As a first step towards a multilingual SW, several mediation mechanisms to translate between abstract conceptual layers and lexical manifestations, which frequently are different across languages and cultures, have been proposed. In fact, concepts might exist in one language but not in another, so called lexical gaps, such as the German “Schadenfreude” (joy when something bad happens to someone else) that has been readily adopted in English due to a lack of an equivalence.

Knowledge representation needs to be able to accommodate such differences. First, the OntoLex-Lemon model that provides an ontology-lexicon interface has found broad uptake by the community and has recently been published as a W3C report [24]. Second, similar models have been proposed to interchange domain-specific terminological information grounded in ontological resources [25]. Combined representations of linguistic, terminological, and ontological knowledge have been modeled [26]. As a final example, the NLP Interchange Format (NIF) [27] based on Linked Data principles serves to improve the interoperability of NLP tools.

Rich combinations of structured knowledge and linguistic information can be applied to a variety of tasks, such as ontology-based information extraction [28], completing and correcting natural language information [29], translating from knowledge resource to natural language and/or vice versa [30], and ontology learning from text [31].

Over the past few decades the Linked Open Data (LOD) cloud and resources published in the Resource Description Framework (RDF) and Web Ontology Language (OWL) have experienced a tremendous growth, however, predominantly in English with several notable exceptions, such as BabelNet [2] and WikiData [32]. To foster this endeavor, automated means, such as NLMs, can improve and fasten ap-

proaches. While this section detailed initiatives by the multilingual SW community, Section 4 focuses on the utilization of NLMs towards a multilingual SW.

4. Multilingual

Within the context of this article, multilingual refers to this aspect of the presented vision, that is, how NLMs can contribute to multilingual SW tasks and technologies.

Machine Translating the SW: One most immediate application scenario of NLMs is the translation of natural language contents of the SW. Ontology labels, especially in domain ontologies, provide a rich terminological layer, but are still predominantly in English. To overcome this problem, Neural Machine Translation (NMT) and Statistical Machine Translation (SMT) models have been applied to translate ontology labels [15]. As an interesting side-aspect, the impact of injection approaches of domain-specific terminological knowledge to NMT and SMT on the translation quality are evaluated. The most promising knowledge augmentation method is domain adaptation of a trained model with terminological expressions, which has been utilized before to translate ontology labels [33] and fine-tune machine translation [34].

Challenges and Opportunities: As concluded in a recent survey on machine translation and SW technologies [35], this combination is still in its infancy. SW technologies have the potential to aid NMT models for disambiguating senses and targeting NMT to particular domains of discourse, which in turn can be applied to produce multilingual domain-specific ontology descriptions.

A most promising direction for such combinations lies in the injection of domain, lexical, and terminological knowledge into NMT systems. While some preliminary evaluations, such as the impact of linguistic processing results injected into a neural question-answering system, are available [36], a systematic investigation is yet to be performed. Knowledge injection or augmentation holds the potential to help bridge the neural-symbolic gap (cf. e.g. [37]) and support Explainable AI (cf. e.g. [38]). It refers to the task of actively including external (knowledge) resources in the training process of NLMs, e.g. by continuing training on a pre-trained model with such a resource or by adjusting the attention mechanism during training with external knowledge.

1 This topic of injecting knowledge to NLMs implicitly
 2 raises an important challenge posed to the Semantic
 3 Web community. Current semantic representations,
 4 such as RDF and OWL, while readily embraced by
 5 the multilingual Semantic Web and Linguistic
 6 Linked Open Data (LLOD) community, might require
 7 an adaptation towards the more lightweight end
 8 in order to be readily adopted by the machine learning
 9 and NLP community.

10 Finally, a fully automated and NLM-based translation
 11 of existing ontology labels to rich linguistic representations
 12 in form of ontology-lexicon or ontology-terminology
 13 models would be a very interesting application of NMT,
 14 which brings us to the next topic of learning structured
 15 languages.

16 Machine Translating to Structured Languages:

17 NMT can not only translate natural languages. Early
 18 neural approaches utilized joint knowledge base and
 19 language embeddings to extract relations [39]. [40]
 20 utilize multilingual natural-language patterns to learn
 21 RDF predicates, which are refined by way of a feedforward
 22 neural network. Recent approaches treat the entire
 23 problem of structure learning as a machine translation
 24 task and utilized an NMT system to learn a specific
 25 subset of Description Logic formulas from definitions
 26 [11]. For instance, from the input *A bee is an animal
 27 that produces honey* the model produces $bee \sqsubseteq animal \sqcap \exists produces.honey$.

28 A long-standing endeavor in Semantic Web research
 29 has been the automated translation of natural language
 30 questions to SPARQL queries. Since SPARQL requires
 31 syntactic and semantic expertise, a translation from
 32 natural language could considerably boost its uptake
 33 and make Semantic Web resources broadly available
 34 without any prior knowledge of representation and
 35 query languages. A broad test of existing NMT
 36 models to the task of translating from natural language
 37 to SPARQL has been proposed [12].

38 **Challenges and Opportunities:** One substantial
 39 future application scenario of NLMs is that of learning
 40 structured knowledge resources. Ontology learning
 41 experiments with NLMs focus on a subset of logical
 42 expressions and on English only. However, automating
 43 the process of extracting structured knowledge from
 44 natural languages, holds the promise of obtaining
 45 conceptualizations specific to the language and culture.

46 This joining of both technologies is not only attractive
 47 for its promised speed of creating resources, but also
 48 for the ability to adapt trained models to new domains
 49 and languages, such as zero-shot translation, the

1 ability to translate from one language to another without
 2 ever explicitly training the language model on this
 3 particular language pair. Thus, these approaches have
 4 the potential to consider low-resource languages. As
 5 a central problem in NLP is the predominance of certain
 6 widespread language varieties in applications, this
 7 could boost the uptake of SW technologies in machine
 8 learning.

9 **Machine Translation for Reasoning:** A very recent
 10 approach is that of tailoring embeddings to accommodate
 11 RDFS reasoning in an NMT task [13]. To this end,
 12 RDF graphs are layered and encoded as adjacency
 13 matrices, where each layer layout represents a graph
 14 word. Input graph and entailments are then represented
 15 as sequences of graph words, which enables treating
 16 RDFS reasoning as a machine translation task.

17 **Challenges and Opportunities:** Deductive reasoning
 18 as a machine translation task is attractive due to its
 19 potential reasoning speed, a major challenge for reasoning
 20 engines. Encoding information as input to NLM-based
 21 reasoning engines is an open research topic. [13]
 22 suggest layered graph word embeddings as a first
 23 approach. However, there is a lot of room for experimentation
 24 and further proposals in this regard.

25 It would be interesting to evaluate whether embeddings
 26 learned for the purpose of reasoning in one formalism
 27 might allow for transitioning to or similarity measures
 28 of elements or statements in different representation
 29 languages. In other words, this could be a potential
 30 approach for tackling diversity of ontology languages,
 31 as proposed by [41] in form of a meta language. For
 32 instance, distributed vector representations learned
 33 for an ontology represented in RDF might be comparable
 34 to embeddings trained on an OWL ontology or on
 35 information encoded in the Unified Modeling Language
 36 (UML).

37 The challenge in combining machine learning and
 38 logic lies in conciliating advantages of both without
 39 aggravating their limitations. The advantages of
 40 symbolic approaches are the provision of sound and
 41 explainable reasoning, while neural approaches with
 42 NLMs have the potential of providing fast and robust
 43 learning. The difficulty in combining them, in fact,
 44 is the current low-level representation of information
 45 in neural approaches instead of symbolic representations
 46 as done in logic. An additional opportunity here is
 47 a hybrid interaction of both methodologies, as proposed
 48 for image segmentation by [42]. The ability of a fully
 49 integrated or hybrid solution to support explainability
 50 of NLMs might currently be the most trendy opportunity
 51

nity. A discussion specific to neural-symbolic systems can be found in [37] in this issue.

NLM-based ontology alignment: has been successfully applied to matching knowledge bases. For instance, utilizing multilingual pretrained embeddings, domain-specific industry classification standards could be aligned [9]. The task of aligning large ontologies has been subdivided into smaller, tractable tasks utilizing a lexical index, neural embeddings, and locality models [43].

A broader alignment strategy is that of bringing together a multitude of resources from the Linguistic Linked Open Data (LLOD) cloud with ontology resources in Framester [3]. Based on this resource, frame-based embeddings are trained and utilized for knowledge reconciliation purposes [44], but could also be applied to a wide range of NLP tasks.

Challenges and Opportunities: NLM-based alignment strategies could benefit from the previous tasks in form of using neural-symbolic reasoning to align large multilingual, transcultural, and multimodal ontologies. In addition, the substantial surge of knowledge graph embedding approaches could be joint with the multitude of word embedding models, building on and contributing to the tradition of modeling at the ontology-natural language interface of the SW community. Joint NLM- and SW-based alignment approaches can potentially also foster the transitioning from knowledge represented in one cultural context to another.

5. Transcultural

When it comes to culture, a multitude of prefixes is commonplace: cross-cultural, intercultural, multicultural, and transcultural. Cross-cultural refers to analytic comparative approaches of different cultures. Intercultural generally establishes a certain understanding for different cultures. Multicultural refers to a plurality of cultures even within a society. And finally transcultural refers to a social concept that denotes a joint shared culture irrespective of origin or nationality. With an ever-growing global connectivity, this last prefix best denotes what this vision entails. Rather than a mere coexisting alignment of cultural representations, a capacity to move between and within cultural and social identity is foreseen. Importance of differences in semantic modeling across cultures finds support in cross-cultural neuro-scientific findings that show dif-

ferences in categorization and in processing semantic relationships across cultures [45].

Cultural Evolution: Cultural evolution is closely tied to evolutionary biology science and Darwinian evolutionary principles [46]. A set of algorithms based on evolution by natural selection, that is, variation, heredity, and selection, has been put forward and recently extended by fission, fusion, and cooperation in their application to cultural phenomena [47]. As a basic assumption, biological concepts for the origin of living beings can be mapped to the cultural and linguistic domain, which have then been combined in a theory of cultural language evolution [48]. An application of the SW tests this assumption in terms of ontology alignments and evolutionary alignment repair in cultural environments utilizing a multi-agent system [49].

Challenges and Opportunities: A theory and experiments for the cultural evolution of human language has been thoroughly investigated [48]. It studies, for instance, how linguistic variants are generated in a population and on which basis some variants survive and become dominant. As a social phenomenon, language features cooperative interaction patterns, such as open-ended questions. While many of these phenomena are language-specific, it is highly unlikely that vocabularies and grammars are stored as different language systems by users. Instead, a widely accepted theory is that of storing such knowledge in form of constructions, associating meaning with form. One construction stores many constraints for efficient parsing and is presumed to incorporate several different language systems [48].

Various grammars have been proposed to capture such linguistic constructions. NLMs potentially complement tested construction grammar approaches, increasing the level of automation and potentially domain coverage by means of transfer learning. In particular, NLM-based multi-agent system negotiations of meaning could foster transcultural modeling of cultural evolution. An alternative way of modeling cultural language evolution is that of formal game-theoretic semantics. Bringing NLMs and formal semantics of constructions spanning across language systems together could potentially boost a transcultural SW. In fact, a SW that facilitates cultural exchange cannot only support human users, but building on evolutionary theories can foster a dynamically evolving SW that embraces diversity rather than rigidity, which again raises the challenge of less focus on formalization and more focus on usability and robustness.

Cultural Heritage: denotes physical artifacts as much as intangible attributes of a culture or society from the past. Several SW approaches can be found, from cultural heritage modeling (e.g, [50]) to creating ontology-based lexicographic tools for the study of ancient culture to enable object-multilingual links [51]. Culture-specific knowledge graphs of cultural heritage have been proposed, such as for Italy [52]. While there is a multitude of NLM-based approaches, little overlap could be detected between NLM- and SW-based research on cultural heritage.

Challenges and Opportunities: The range of possible joint approaches of NLM and SW technologies to model cultural heritage includes all of the multilingual approaches presented above and most of the multimodal approaches presented below. For instance, based on knowledge graphs, NLMs can be utilized to analyze similarities and differences across cultural heritages as well as refine technologies to share and analyze cultural data. Neural-symbolic reasoning could be particularly powerful for such alignments.

One of the most central challenges in terms of cultural heritage is the linking and representing of cultural data in a harmonized way across individual data collections. Here symbolic ontology-based integration methods could strongly benefit from NLMs and their ability to detect similarities even with noisy data, bringing together rich semantic representations and noise-tolerant, robust learners.

On a more local level, organizations procuring cultural heritage data are frequently interested in a possibility to provide highly personalized user experiences. For instance, a virtual tour through a museum or archaeological site should be fully in the control of each user. In this direction it would be interesting to explore the joint power of NLM-based SW technologies or SW-empowered NLMs to suggest or predict interesting paths or items for each individual user.

Culture-specific Modeling: Another important transcultural SW connection is that of utilizing ontologies for culture-specific modeling. For instance, [53] explore Australian Indigenous knowledge systems utilizing SW technologies. When utilizing SW technologies for cross-cultural modeling, lexical gaps rapidly become unavoidable. Cross-language information retrieval (CLIR) tasks equally encounter this problem, and have come up with NLM-based methods to bridge such lexical gaps [54]. Embedding spaces have also been analyzed for their ability to represent culture-

specific association [55] and their ability for macro-cultural modeling.

Challenges and Opportunities: Going from modeling individual culture-specific knowledge representations to a transcultural one represents the biggest challenge in this task. Domain ontologies potentially provide a language-independent anchor for transcultural knowledge modeling, joint with NLM-based cross-language information retrieval and analysis approaches. Bringing both together enables transcultural question-answering and potentially automated localization approaches. By transcultural question-answering, this article refers to the phenomenon of not only foreseeing multilingual answers to queries posed to a language-agnostic knowledge base, but the ability to verbalize responses from such a knowledge base in a variety of cultural spheres and states of cultural language evolution. Localization differs from translation in that it focuses on a regional adaptation of contents more than their transformation to a different language or linguistic variation. As such it takes cultural preferences into account.

One powerful aspect that could potentially boost transcultural modeling is a solid cognitive basis, such as multilingual knowledge extraction and modeling related to embodied cognition [56, 57]. Such a cognitive framework can be utilized to analyze and model cultural differences on a cognitive-conceptual basis rather than a primarily data-driven approach.

One important aspect of culture are regional linguistic differences. Considering dialects and linguistic variations in machine translation and semantic speech technologies is still an open field of research. Rich variation-aware linguistic representation models in connection to ontologies, that is, extensions of ontology-lexicon and ontology-terminology models, injected into NLMs are promising for this task. Especially in this regard a connection to other modalities, such as speech synthesis approaches, could bring significant benefits.

6. Multimodal

NLMs promise to boost not only the SW's multilinguality but are capable of contributing to its multimodality. For the sake of the vision, a broad perspective will be adopted also considering multisensory approaches, from vision to tactile. Such multimodal representations can be utilized in intelligent

1 conversational agents, multimodal information extrac-
2 tion, robotics, among many more.

3 **Semantic Speech Technologies:** Speech technologies
4 building on SW resources and NLM systems promise
5 to support important present-day applications, such
6 as assisted living. Google registered a patent on uti-
7 lizing language models for understanding conversa-
8 tions based on SW resources [58]. A speech interface
9 for question-answering systems has been proposed
10 [59], which, in combination with the above multilin-
11 gual strategies for NLM-based question answering,
12 could provide broad access to SW resources. Another
13 Google patent for reformulations of speech queries has
14 been registered [60], providing alternative queries if
15 the submitted one returns no results. Most of these
16 systems rely on text transcriptions utilizing automated
17 speech recognition (ASR) systems. The recently pub-
18 lished Translatotron [18] omits this step and translates
19 directly from speech to speech in the speaker’s voice.

20 **Challenges and Opportunities:** Intelligent voice in-
21 teraction is a booming business model as much as vi-
22 brant research field. Building on neural-symbolic rea-
23 soning, such systems could enable a multilingual, mul-
24 timodal query-answering system on formally struc-
25 tured resources. Major challenges here are similar to
26 those of transcultural modeling. Local contexts and
27 linguistic variations need to be taken into account
28 to grant broad information access and a high usabil-
29 ity. Nevertheless, achieving a speech-empowered SW
30 technologies strongly furthers the endeavor to break
31 down access barriers to represented information.

32 **Semantic Video Technologies:** In order to include the
33 visual-manual modality to convey meaning in form
34 of sign language, knowledge needs to be conveyed
35 by video. [61] combine speech synthesis, machine
36 translation, and SW technologies to create a machine-
37 readable knowledge representation for the Turkish sign
38 language. In consequence, NMT can be utilized to
39 translate between natural language and sign language,
40 as has been suggested utilizing the above sign lan-
41 guage representation for Turkish [62].

42 **Challenges and Opportunities:** Semantic video tech-
43 nologies still suffer from a lack of broad coverage in
44 terms of language and visual-manual modality. Estab-
45 lishing such a coverage potentially provides all users,
46 including users with special needs or illiterate users,
47 with access to information truly breaking down infor-
48 mation barriers. In fact, very few SW sign language
49 approaches can be found. Latest NLM advances can
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1 contribute to automating and improving existing ap-
2 proaches. For instance, VideoBERT [17] treats video
3 frames as “video words” utilizing a vector quanti-
4 zation approach and an off-the-shelf speech recogni-
5 tion system to transcribe audio. Resulting represen-
6 tations allow for a seamless transition between text
7 and video. Further adding cross-modal reasoning ap-
8 proaches could boost the interface between video and
9 natural language [63]. A video-enabled NLM-based
10 SW can strongly support barrier-free online communi-
11 cation, especially if transformations between different
12 modalities are provided.

13 **Semantic Sensor Web:** A Semantic Sensor Web in
14 the Internet of Things vision [64] is probably the clos-
15 est corpus of related approaches. Building on SW en-
16 ablement or Linked Data standards, sensor data are
17 linked and annotated. Thus, SW query technologies
18 can be applied to sensor data [65]. Its link to language
19 models comes from the necessity of connecting sen-
20 sor data to human communication means, the human-
21 robot interface, such as natural language understand-
22 ing of robot instructions which has been shown to ben-
23 efit from ontology-natural language groundings [66].

24 **Challenges and Opportunities:** Linking sensory data
25 and language can boost human-robot interactions, as
26 sensory information, their semantic representation,
27 and neural-symbolic reasoning could be highly benefi-
28 cial to the task of explainable robotics and AI [38]. Re-
29 cent advances in terms of cross-modal predictions [67]
30 connected to SW technologies can potentially boost
31 cognitive AI systems.

32 One major challenge of connecting NLMs with sen-
33 tantic sensor data is that of magnifying biases. NLMs
34 have been shown in multiple studies to easily suffer
35 from biases, which unfortunately is also true for sensor
36 data, thereby bearing the risk of multiplying and inten-
37 sifying biases across modalities. For example, sensors
38 in self-driving cars have been shown to detect lighter
39 skin tones better than darker ones [68].

40 Multisensor semantic data might also relate to neu-
41 ral patterns and the ability to automatically decode
42 them. A recent approach managed to reconstruct a
43 word from neural activation patterns from auditory in-
44 puts [69]. Thus, one future scenario of this neural-
45 symbolic vision is the application of SW and NLM
46 models in the brain-computer interface.
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7. Conclusion

Building on selected existing approaches, this article laid out a vision of a multilingual, transcultural, and multimodal Semantic Web (SW) utilizing Neural Language Models (NLMs). Joining forces of SW and NLMs can boost a wide variety of tasks, such as extracting data from different languages and channels, formally interlinking them, and verbalizing logical answers in natural language or sign language in response to multimodal queries.

The biggest challenge and at the same time opportunity is a seamless connection of and transition between multilingual, transcultural, and multimodal knowledge representations. Individual bridges across this big gap have been built, such as transitioning from natural language text to video and sign language. However, integrating transcultural representations requires further investigations. In fact, cultural modeling and transcultural alignments might be the pillar that requires most further construction work to provide a footing for this vision, which targets a truly unbiased and fully accessible Semantic Web.

One central opportunity of this vision is the fact that seamlessly accessibly and dynamic SW technologies can foster not only cultural language evolution but simultaneously knowledge evolution. One key to this vision is thus an easily accessible representation mechanism - one that can easily be adopted by other communities, such as machine learning - that strongly embraces diversity and boosts diversity-aware AI, which in the end will foster robustness.

While the focus here was on benefits of SW technologies, some advantages that NLMs can obtain by joining forces with SW technologies have been braced upon. For instance, injecting structured and formal knowledge into NLM architectures have shown improvements for machine translation and textual entailment task. Further investigations in the ability of SW technologies to support NLM tasks and applications would be interesting.

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