ERROR ANNOTATION IN LEARNER CORPORA: TOOLS AND APPLICATIONS IN ENGLISH AND ITALIAN

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REALEC Testmaker

A simple tool to convert students’ mistakes into exercises

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Summary

- REALEC English Test Maker allows users to create Moodle-compatible question lists out of errors manually annotated in student essays
- Today we are going to demonstrate how to use REALEC Testmaker with its new web frontend
The application accepts the path to the essay on REALEC website, connects to REALEC to extract all annotations, and generates files in Moodle XML format, which are downloaded to your computer.

These files are then uploaded to your Moodle-based testing platform.
Texts and annotations in BRAT

REALEC Testmaker Web

Moodle
Stages and versions

- In 2017 we presented REALEC Testmaker, or RETM [Vinogradova, O., Gerasimenko, E., 2017: ‘Design of test-making tools for the learner corpus’, Corpus Linguistics 2017 Abstracts, 2017], and now you will learn about a new, more convenient, version of this tool - REALEC Testmaker Web.
**REALEC Testmaker**

- Needs Python interpreter to run
- Command line user interface
- Requires that users download source data manually from the corpus

**REALEC Testmaker Web**

http://linghub.ru/realec-testmaker
https://realec-testmaker.herokuapp.com

- Requires only web browser (**NB**: Internet Explorer is not supported)
- Does not require downloading data from corpus manually
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>REALEC Testmaker</th>
<th>REALEC Testmaker Web</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>short answer exercises</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>word form exercises</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>open-cloze exercises</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>multiple choice exercises</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can be accessed via web browser</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can generate two variants of test</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Testmaker Web** currently supports only the basic exercise type of all those provided by **REALEC Testmaker**, but it allows generating two variants of the test in a short time.
Enter path to essay (from **REALEC**):

Test making options

- [ ] Generate 2 variants of test
- [ ] Do not repeat questions in variants
- [ ] Include contexts

Generate test questions

The link(s) to the generated test file(s) will appear here
How are tests generated?

• The algorithm is quite simple and straightforward
• Testmaker server downloads the essay text and annotation from **REALEC**
• Corrections from the annotation are inserted into source text
• The text is split into sentences
• Exercises may consist of one or three (if option **Include contexts** is enabled) sentences
• For each question, only one mistake is selected, others are automatically corrected
• The selected mistake is the one with the highest position in annotation tag hierarchy
Step 1

Open an essay in REALEC corpus and copy its URL from the address bar of your web browser.
Step 2

Paste the address of selected essay under the line “Enter path to essay (from REALEC)”

Test making options

- Generate 2 variants of test
- Do not repeat questions in variants
- Include contexts

Generate test questions

The link(s) to the generated test file(s) will appear here
Options in REALEC Testmaker Web

There are three options for generating test questions:

• **Generate 2 variants of test** – The testmaker will output 2 Moodle XML file

• **Do not repeat questions in variants** - if checked, sentences with only one error span will be distributed between variants; if not checked, they will go to both variants

• **Include contexts** – if checked, test questions will include 3-sentence text fragments instead of sentences
Step 3

Now press the button **Generate test questions** on REALEC Testmaker website
When you files are ready you will see the message as displayed above. Press **OK** to proceed.
Step 4

Now you can download your generated XML files via links that appeared in box below the button (Just click links to download files). The next step is uploading them to Moodle server.

Generate test questions

Variant1: Download

Variant2: Download
Open [http://web-corpora.net/realec/login/index.php](http://web-corpora.net/realec/login/index.php) and login to our Moodle server with the username and the password you have used to annotate the corpus (Type in your username and password and press **Log in**).
Select course *for tutorial*
Select option *Turn editing on*
Select **Course administration** -> **Question bank** -> **Categories** at the left bottom corner of the screen (you may need to scroll down the page to get to this menu)
Add your name in **Name** box and press **Add category** button
Select **Question bank** -> **Import** in menu at the left bottom corner.
Select option *Moodle XML format*
In *Import category* section select your name as typed at Step 8
Press **Import**, select **Upload a file** option and in the appeared window select your MoodleXML file downloaded from REALEC Testmaker (it can be found in Downloads folder (if you have not changed your browser default settings) or the folder specified in your web browser to store downloaded files).
Step 14

Press **Import**
Now all generated questions are displayed to you (CAPS marks the error span). Press **Continue** to proceed.
The generated questions have been added to the question bank of your course. You can edit and preview them if necessary by clicking icons to the right of them.
This slide shows the preview of the generated question
After questions are added to the question bank you can create quizzes with them in your course if you select Add an activity or resource on the page of your course and press Add button. For further help on this topic please see Moodle documentation on quizzes.
Thank you for your attention
References