

Discovery Indonesian Medical Question-Answering Pairs Pattern With Question Generation

Wiwin Suwarningsih^{1,2}, Iping Supriana³, Ayu Purwarianti⁴

^{1,3,4}*School of Electronic Engineering and Informatics, Bandung Institute of Technology*

²*Research Center for Informatics, Indonesian Institute of Science*

^{1,2}wiwin.suwarningsih@students.itb.ac.id, ³iping@informatika.org, ⁴ayu@informatika.org

Abstract

Question generating refers to the task of automatically generating questions from various inputs such as raw text, database, or semantic representation. This paper concerns with the development of the novel question generating methods for Indonesian medical question answering. It begins by presenting an overview of the main methods and followed by showing the architecture of the proposed system in detail. Furthermore, this paper proposed a novel template-based approach to question a generation by combining a number of semantic roles through a method of generating both general and domain-specific questions. It was more focused on Question Generating with a discourse task involving the following three steps: (1) content selection of sentence (Problem, Intervention, Comparison and Outcome (PICO) categories), (2) question type identification, and (3) question answering construction. It is argued then that many ways in which the sentences of the answer to a question can be formulated and acquired from resources containing a large number of semantically related sentences. This approach achieved F-measure values of 0.88, precision 0.84 and recall 0.86 for active sentence. Finally, it can be concluded that the pattern matching criteria of the training set and semantic role labelling based on PICO frame can be reproducible with minimal expert intervention.

Keywords : medical question generating, question-answering pairs, semantic transformation, PICO frame.

Introduction

Question generating (QG) refers to an important component in dialogue systems, virtual environments, and learning technologies such as Intelligent Tutoring Systems, inquiry-based environments, and instructional games [7][9]. Question Generating system can be helpful in Closed-domain Question Answering (QA) systems such as medical QA, clinical QA and biomedical QA [6][9]. Some closed-domain QA systems use a number of predefined (sometimes hand-writing) question-answer pairs to provide QA services. Employing a QG approach to such systems could be ported to other domains with little or even no effort [6]. Some previous research on QG such as Lindberg [7] have ever been conducted by introducing a novel template-based approach to automatically generates natural language questions to support online learning. Heilman and Noah [2], addressed the challenge of automatically generating questions

from reading materials for educational practice and assessment.

Another research created a framework for question generation in composing a number of general-purpose rules to transform some declarative sentences into questions. It was modular in that the existing NLP tools could be leveraged, and included a statistical component for scoring questions based on features of the input, output, and transformations performed [3]. Yao [8], proposed a novel approach based entirely on semantics for QG with Minimal Recursion Semantics (MRS), a meta-level semantic representation with an emphasis on a scope underspecification. Through the English Resource Grammar and various tools from the DELPH-IN community, a natural language sentence can be interpreted as an MRS structure by parsing in which this structure can be realized as a natural language sentence through generation.

Based on these studies, we in this study aimed to create a system for shallow question generation (QG) that can take as an input of a medical article of text, focused on QG with a discourse task involving the following three steps: (1) content selection of sentence (Problem, Intervention, Comparison and Outcome (PICO) categories), (2) question type identification, and (3) question answering construction.

Overall, this paper is aimed to provide following contributions:

- 1) Converting Indonesian natural language to frame PICO for content selection and question type identification Indonesian medical sentence.
- 2) Mapping semantic role labelling using PICO frame to develop semantic rules and provide a good set of question answering (QA) pair patterns.
- 3) As an application, we show that F-measure values of 0.88, precision 0.84 and recall 0.86 for active sentence.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 describes related work on Question generation, followed by Section 3 presenting the details of the proposed method. Furthermore, Section 4 shows the evaluation and results and Section 5 describes the experiment. Finally, the conclusion and future directions are presented in Section 6.

Related Work

In common, the following issues have been addressed in

question generation such as Yao *et al.*[1] that presented a question generation system based on the semantic rewriting approach. They here obtained a principle way of generating questions that avoided the ad-hoc manipulation of syntactic structures. In addition, they were able to use an independently developed parser and generator for the analysis and generation stage. The generator typically proposes several different surface realizations of a given input in view of its extensive grammatical coverage. Heilman and Smith [2], meanwhile, focused on question generation (QG) for the creation of educational materials for reading practice and assessment. Their objective was to generate some fact-based questions about the content of a given article. Lindberg *et al.*[4], introduced a sophisticated template-based approach that incorporated some semantic role labels into a system that automatically generated natural language questions to support online learning. The task of question generation (QG) from text can be broadly divided into three (not entirely disjoint) categories: syntax-based, semantics-based, and template-based. The systems in the syntactic category frequently use the elements of semantics and vice-versa.

Another related work concerned with the automatic generation of factual WH questions[5]. The system created an automated system that could take an input of a text and produced the output questions for assessing a reader's knowledge of the information in the text. The questions could then be presented to a teacher who could select and revise the ones judged to be useful. Husam *et al.*[6] considered an automatic Sentence-to-Question generation task in which a sentence given, the Question Generation (QG) system generated a set of questions for which the sentence contains, implies, or needs answers. To facilitate the question generation task, they built some elementary sentences from the input complex sentences using a syntactic parser. A named entity recognizer and a part of speech tagger have been applied on each of these sentences to encode any important information. They then classified the sentences based on their subject, verb, object and preposition to determine the possible type of questions to be generated. Lindberg[7] introduced a novel template-based approach to question generation that combined some semantic roles with a method of generating both general and domain-specific questions. They evaluated their approach that was mindful of the context in which the generated questions were going to be used. This evaluation then showed the approach to be effective in generating pedagogically-useful questions. Bednaric and Kovacs[9] developed an automated question generation with a more flexible and open framework for the Hungarian language. The focus of their work was on the investigation how effective the application of general soft computing stochastic methods in the processing of semantic and grammatical problem domains was.

Proposed Method

The idea of the discovery of QA-pairs pattern method is to automatically transform from a declarative sentence to interrogative ones. The method used for the manufacture of transformation rules in this paper was the result of utilizing the output sentence dependencies between NE. It is assumed that the sentences with a dependency relationship are going to

share the semantic role raised in the same or related sentences. It has been motivated by a number of researches in which the lexical semantic hypotheses were on the word behaviour, especially regarding the expression and interpretation of rules to a large extent determined by the meaning. For each slot in the pattern of semantic templates, it was performed by examining the role of semantic and adjusting it with the transformation rules. The role of the text was in accordance with the transformation rules, altered according to slots extracted and put into words the question. The flowchart of this study is illustrated in Figure.1.

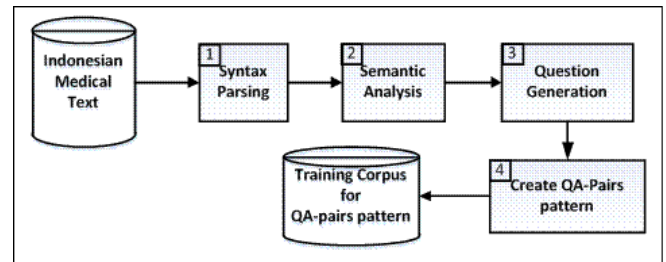


Figure.1. Flowchart of QA pairs pattern discovery for Indonesian medical question answering system

Evaluation and Results

QG from text is of a vital importance for self-directed learning[10]. It has been shown [11][12] that questioning is an effective method of helping learners to learn better. Many previous works have examined QG from single sentences, but this technique has almost exclusively more focused on generating factoid questions. Factoids are questions requiring the learner to recall some facts explicitly as stated in the source text[12].

Content Selection of Sentence

Selecting the content of sentence was performed through three stages: firstly parsing the syntax to obtain Parts of Speech (POS) tagging to determine whether each word as a noun, verb, or preposition. Here, the list of POS for medical domain used the results of research as conducted by Alfian [13]. Secondly, it was through syntactic parsing to identify the type of phrase contained in the sentence; and thirdly, through semantic analysis to process sentences tree that has been affixed to the semantic rules to generate representations of meaning in the form of semantic rules. Semantic rules used in this paper were based on the frame PICO (see Table 1.).

For the purposes of selecting the sentence content in this paper, the conversion of natural language to frame PICO was conducted. For this, a shape-based classification PICO frames were developed by adjusting the needs of the medical domain Indonesia. The development of PICO frames into PPPICCOODTQ (Problem, Population, Patient, Intervention, Compare, Control, Outcome, Organs, Drug, Time and Quantity). The backgrounds why we did the conversion of natural language medical domain Indonesia to frame the PICO were as follows: (i) Frame PICO is merely an organizing structure conducive to the type of clinical or medical questions [14][15][16]; (ii) Frame PICO is an essential

element for use in model-based semantic patterns in medical questions [17]; (iii) Frame PICO can be used to obtain potential answers derived from the identification of named entities and correspondence between semantic roles [18][19][20]; and (iv) Identification of candidate answers are more flexible by using of the identification of the frame-based semantic role PICO [21][22][23][24].

Table 1. PICO frame-based semantic rules

Semantics Rule	Specification
$\lambda x \lambda y$ population (x, y)	y is a kind of disease of x
$\lambda x \lambda y$ patient (x, y)	y is the patient of x
$\lambda x \lambda y$ problem (x, y)	y is the problem of x
$\lambda x \lambda y$ intervention (x, y)	y is the interference of x
$\lambda x \lambda y$ compare (x, y)	y is a comparison of x
$\lambda x \lambda y$ control (x, y)	y is the control of x
$\lambda x \lambda y$ outcome (x, y)	y is the result of x
$\lambda x \lambda y$ organs (x, y)	y is this part of the body x
$\lambda x \lambda y$ drug (x, y)	y is a drug that is used on the x
$\lambda x \lambda y$ time (x, y)	y is the time required from x
$\lambda x \lambda y$ quantity (x,y)	y is a measure of x

Table 2. Rules are attaching for Lexical Semantics with PICO frame-based

No	POS label	lexical semantic
1.	N, JJ	λx object(x,A)
2.	VB	$\lambda x \lambda y$ intervention(x,y)
3.	NP	λx object(x, A) ^ $\lambda x \lambda y$ compare(x,y)
		λx object(x, A) ^ $\lambda x \lambda y$ control(x,y)
		λx object(x, A) ^ $\lambda x \lambda y$ outcome(x,y)
		$\lambda x \lambda y$ compare(x,y)
		$\lambda x \lambda y$ control(x,y)
		$\lambda x \lambda y$ outcome(x,y)
		$\lambda x \lambda y$ organs(x,y)
4.	JJP	$\lambda x \lambda y$ comparison(x,y)
5.	VBI	$\lambda x \lambda y$ intervention(x,y) ^ $\lambda x \lambda y$ problem(x,y)
		$\lambda x \lambda y$ intervention(x,y) ^ $\lambda x \lambda y$ population(x,y)
6.	VBT	$\lambda x \lambda y$ intervention(x,y) ^ $\lambda x \lambda y$ problem(x,y) ^ $\lambda x \lambda y$ patient(x,y)
		$\lambda x \lambda y$ intervention(x,y) ^ $\lambda x \lambda y$ population(x,y) ^ $\lambda x \lambda y$ patient(x,y)

For more details, we have attempted to provide a picture of the process of parsing and semantic analysis using the sentence (1).

Peningkatan sistem imun menahan serangan virus(1)
 (English : Improved immune system resists virus attacks)

The stages of decomposition for sentence (1) included:

- POS formed is an
 - peningkatan*/N
 - sistem*/N
 - imun*/JJ
 - menahan*/VB
 - serangan*/N
 - virus*/N
- Identification of the phrase: *sistem imun* is an adjective phrase or JJP and *serangan virus* are noun phrases or NP. Thus, labelling sentence examples-1 became:
 - Peningkatan*/N
 - [*sistem*/N *imun*/JJ]/JJP
 - menahan*/VB
 - [*serangan*/N *virus*/N]/NP
- Establishment of a parse tree with frame-based semantic analysis labelling PICO for sentence (1) (see Figure 1). The use of lexical semantic embedding rules is listed in Table 2.

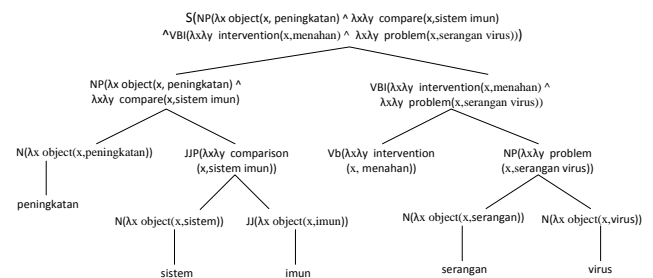


Figure 2. Parse tree, with PICO frame-based semantic labeling

The establishment of a parse tree with semantic labelling was required to define the phrase or keywords contained in the sentence (see Figure 2). Furthermore, keyword phrase was used for the extraction of information (including the manufacture of extraction rules and relations between phrases or keywords) in the sentence. The process of information extraction using the rules based on PICO frame and NE relations contained is shown in Figure 3. Furthermore, the result of the extraction of information for the sentence in example 1 can be seen in Figure 4.

Rule Base on PICO frame: R1 : (gejala, tanda-tanda)[POPULATION] adalah [PROBLEM], [PROBLEM], [PROBLEM] R2 : [INTERVENTION] [PROBLEM] akibat [POPULATION] gunakan [DRUG] R3 : [PATIENT] [POPULATION] harus [INTERVENTION] [PROBLEM] dan [PROBLEM] R4 : Cara [INTERVENTION] [POPULATION] adalah [CONTROL], [CONTROL] dan [CONTROL]
NE Relations: Re11: [POPULATION] DISEBAKKAN-OLEH[PROBLEM] Re12: [PROBLEM] INDIKASI[POPULATION] Re13: [OUTCOME] INDIKASI[POPULATION] Re14: [CONTROL] MENGGATASI[POPULATION]

Figure 3. Rule base on PICO frame and NE relations.

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a. Identification of the sentence for NE:
sistem imun=<COMPARE>
menahan = <INTERVENTION>
serangan virus=<PROBLEM>
b. Put in the rule base extraction. The extraction rule its forms:
Peningkatan[COMPARE][INTERVENTION][PROBLEM]
c. Information extraction by establishing relationships between NE
- [COMPARE] MENEGAH [PROBLEM]
- Peningkatan[COMPARE] MENEGAH [PROBLEM]
- [PROBLEM] DIATASI-DENGANpeningkatan [COMPARE]
    
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Figure.4. Information Extraction for Sentence

“Peningkatan sistem imun menahan serangan virus”

The extraction of this information was used to identify a role owned by the sentence (1). Furthermore, the role was analysed by the system and classified for the question generation.

Question Type Identification

Question type identification was conducted using the identification of semantic roles held by declarative sentences. The semantics, in this case, acted as a key in the transformation process. The performance of this transformation was based upon transformation rules and the method used for the manufacture of transformation rules in this paper was the result of utilizing the output sentence dependencies between NE. It was then assumed that the sentences with a dependency relationship would share the semantic role raised in the same or related sentences. It was based upon a number of researches in which the lexical semantic hypotheses were on the word behaviour, especially regarding the expression and interpretation of rules to a large extent determined by the meaning.

For each slot in the pattern of semantic templates, the semantic role was examined and adjusted by the transformation rules. The role of the text was in accordance with the rules of transformation and altered based on the slots extracted and put into question. Based on the formed transformation rules, the sentence (1) then could be identified using semantic role (i.e.<COMPARE> = *sistem imun*, <INTERVENTION> = *menahan*, and <PROBLEM> = *serangan virus*) and transformed by the rule:

- **If** System finds role = <COMPARE>
then question_sentence = *Apa*
+manfaat+<COMPARE>?(What+are
benefits+<COMPARE>?)
- **If** System finds role = <PROBLEM>
then question_sentence
 = *Bagaimana+<INTERVENTION>+<PROBLEM>?*
(How+ <INTERVENTION> + <PROBLEM> ?)
- **If** System finds role = <PROBLEM>
then question_sentence = *Apa+penyebab+<PROBLEM> ?*
(What + are the causes+ <PROBLEM> ?)

The results of generating questions for sentence (1) can be seen in sentence (2) through (4).

Apamanfaat sistem imun?
 (What are the benefits of immune system?) (2)

Bagaimana menahan serangan virus?
 (How holds viruses?) (3)

Apapenyebab serangan virus?
 (What are the causes of virus attacks?) (4)

Sentence (2) through (4) has not produced the answer, for being limited to the transformation of declarative sentences into interrogative ones. To obtain the necessary questions to the pattern matching, templates predicate argument (PA) already have a couple questions answers.

Question Answering Construction.

At this stage, the process of making a template of PA was used in the filtering process [25]. Based on the results of the manual analysis of sentences used as a source of training, templates PA would be defined (see Table 3) with a predicate <INTERVENTION>, while the other was as an argument.

The use of <INTERVENTION> as predicate was based on the following reasons:

- a unit of an event or an action and captures was more semantics than keywords, thus more promising that answers could be more precisely extracted [26];
- it described the relations between nouns and used to handle expressions not mediated by verbs [27].

Table 3. PA template for question answering pair

Question Template	Answering Template
<i>Apa+manfaat</i> <i>+<COMPARE>?</i>	<INTERVENTION> + <PROBLEM>
<i>Apa+manfaat</i> <i>+<CONTROL>?</i>	<INTERVENTION> + <PROBLEM>
<i>Apa+manfaat</i> <i>+<CONTROL>?</i>	<INTERVENTION> + <POPULATION>
<i>Apa+manfaat</i> <i>+<CONTROL>?</i>	<INTERVENTION> + <OUTCOME>
<i>Apa+indikasi+<OUTCOME</i> <i>>?</i>	<PROBLEM>, <PROBLEM>
<i>Apa+penyebab+<PROBLE</i> <i>M>?</i>	<POPULATION>
<i>Apa+penyebab+<POPULAT</i> <i>ION>?</i>	<PROBLEM>, <PROBLEM>,<PROBLEM>
<i>Bagaimana+<INTERVENS</i> <i>ION>+<PROBLEM>?</i>	<COMPARE>
<i>Bagaimana+<INTERVENS</i> <i>ION>+<PROBLEM>?</i>	<CONTROL>
<i>Bagaimana+<INTERVENS</i> <i>ION>+<POPULATION>?</i>	<COMPARE>
<i>Bagaimana+<INTERVENS</i> <i>ION>+<POPULATION>?</i>	<CONTROL>
<i>Bagaimana+<PROBLEM>+</i> <i>dapat dihindari?</i>	<i>Lakukan</i> <CONTROL>,<CO NTROL> <i>dan</i> <CONTROL>

The generation of sentence (1) using the transformation rules of the sentence was not to produce an answer. As a consequence, it was deemed important to have a way to bring the answer. In this research, it was conducted by making the process of comparison against the template PA which has been formed as shown in Table 3. Sentence (2) through (4)

was processed using pattern matching. If the pattern was found and fit, the pattern of responses would be displayed. If the pattern was not found, the process would be terminated then.

Phase filtering functions to sort a number of interrogative sentences taken from the transformation stage sentence. The sorting process was performed using a template pattern matching in PA with the sentence pattern transformation results. The algorithms used for pattern matching were modified from Deterministic Finite Automata (DFA) method as created by Knuth *et al.* [28]. Figure 5 presents the concept of the algorithm for pattern matching.

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Algorithm for pattern matching & found of answering
Input: Sentence question PICO pattern
Output: The pattern of the sentence answers found
Method: Each state of each pattern PICO and each node has multiple
        labels (such as POS tagging, NER)

// Create a pointer to the next state
Int j = 0
Int p = 0

// identification for PICO in the database table = d.pico
// identification to query PICO of sentence = q.pico

// Matching process
For (int i = 0; i <N; i++) // N is the length of the pattern
    If (q.pos (i) = d.pos (j) then // compare position PICO with
        the pattern of PICO
        Next [j] = next i];
        j++; // pattern match then copy and increment
    Else
        Next [j] = x + 1;
        x = next [x]; // do the opposite pattern does not match
    Endif

// If the pattern corresponding questions and found, show patterns of
response
If (j = p) then
    print "Answering pattern";
Endif
Endfor
    
```

Figure 5. Algorithm for pattern matching & found of answering

The workings of this algorithm are to compare two databases that contain a pattern PICO and PICO query from an input sentence. The pattern is read one by one and compared. If the pattern is found equal, it is recorded and does to the next string up with unreadable input pattern and reaches that mark a question (?). Conversely, if the pattern does not match the pattern, it is ignored then.

Based on the concept of the pattern matching algorithm, each sentence (2) to (4) has an answer as in sentence (5) through (7).

Question : *Apamanfaatsistem imun?*
 (What are the benefits of the immune system?) (2)

Pattern Answer: <INTERVENTION> + <PROBLEM>

Answer: *menahan serangan virus*
 (to resist virus attacks) (5)

Sentence (3) produced two answers, those are <COMPARE> or <CONTROL>. However, as the source of the sentence (1) found no role <CONTROL>, then for role <CONTROL> was ignored.

Question: *Bagaimana menahan serangan virus?*
 (How to resist a virus attack?) (3)

Pattern Answer : <COMPARE>

Answer: *sistem imun* (immune system) (6)

From the pattern of the sentence (4), the answer <POPULATION> was produced, since the source of the sentence (1) found no role <POPULATION>, the sentence (4) was the ignored and did not include the generation of questions for the sentence (1).

Question : *Apapenyebabserangan virus ?*
 (What are the causes of virus attack?) (4)

Pattern Answer : <POPULATION>

Answer: null (7)

Experimental Experimental Data

In our knowledge, we have built our own Indonesian medical sentence and named entity based on PICO frame. We collected Indonesian medical articles from two popular Indonesian sites (<http://health.detik.com/> and health.kompas.com/konsultasi) for data in 2014 (after eliminating the similar medical entity, 500 medical sentences for each classification and features were obtained). We randomly selected 60% of sentences for testing and 40% for training. We adopted the default regularization parameter and tested few cost-factor values to adjust the rate between Precision and Recall on the validation set.

Experimental Result

To evaluate the proposed method we have used a combination of the different sentences (see Table 4) such as active sentence, passive sentence, complex sentences with the conjunction "*tetapi*" (but), complex sentences with the conjunction "*sedangkan*" (while) and complex sentences with the conjunction "*ketika*" (when). This approach then achieved F-measure values of 0.88, precision 0.84 and recall 0.86 for active sentence. It can be concluded here that the pattern matching criteria of the training set and semantic role labeling based on PICO frame can be reproducible with minimal expert intervention.

Table 4. Result of Experiment with Combination Sentence

Combination of Sentence	F-Measure	Precision	Recall
active sentence	0,88	0,84	0,86
passive sentences	0,85	0,79	0,81
complex sentences with the conjunction " <i>tetapi</i> "	0,77	0,81	0,82
complex sentences with the conjunction " <i>sedangkan</i> "	0,79	0,76	0,78
complex sentences with the conjunction " <i>ketika</i> "	0,78	0,73	0,76

Conclusion and Future Work

A new method to the discovery of Indonesian medical question answering pairs pattern with question generation is presented in this research. This method only uses algorithms

in the form of transformation rule and filtering based on the predicate argument. Since the results in this early phase have been found very encouraging, particularly when the very simple question selection scheme was taken into account, the chance of further improvements in recognition accuracy was high. Using question generation one might switch very quickly to transformation sentence and found in the pattern without any needs of a linguist expert.

The research has been conducted regarding that generation of questions still uses the concept-based and rule-based pattern. In fact, there are some disadvantages when using these concepts, including the need to build a knowledge base for managing rules and patterns needed to support the system as well as the need to always update the new knowledge in anytime.

The future machine learning method allows the system to learn patterns of text in which the question and the answer might be not possible, and then convert these patterns into the formula. Formula learning system is supposed to be made at levels where each level builds a set of formulas that are different in quality and quantity of the other levels. The system then provides weight to each formula representing QG query capabilities to produce and find the right answer.

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