



AI Based Transformation Rule Generator for Data Pipelines

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Abstract

This work presents an AI-driven Transformation Rule Generator that automates data-pipeline development by translating plain-language requirements into executable, schema-aligned SQL transformation logic. The system addresses increasing data volumes and the high cost of manual ETL development by enabling both technical and non-technical users to upload datasets (CSV/XLSX), extract schema metadata, and generate precise transformation rules using two complementary modes. Auto Mode proposes rules inferred from data characteristics and user intent, whereas Query Mode executes user-specified natural-language prompts. Large language models (LLMs), exemplified by OpenAI's GPT-4o mini, are utilized to construct context-rich, schema-aware prompts that produce syntactically correct SQL with consistent style and structure. A live preview engine renders before-and-after views on sample data for immediate validation, enabling rapid refinement and reducing downstream errors. Approved rules are tagged with metadata and stored in a centralized, searchable library to support reuse, governance, and auditability. Export adapters facilitate seamless deployment to Snowflake, Databricks, and Apache Airflow. The platform is implemented using FastAPI for orchestration, MongoDB for flexible storage, and a responsive web interface built with HTML, CSS (Bootstrap), and JavaScript. Non-functional objectives emphasize usability through intuitive workflows, security through encryption and role-based access, performance through sub-second previews for moderate datasets, and scalability through cloud-ready, concurrent session handling. Pilot evaluations demonstrate substantial reductions in manual coding effort, strong rule accuracy, and high user acceptance across domains such as fintech, healthcare, and retail. By unifying natural-language intent capture, schema-aware synthesis, interactive validation, and governed reuse, the



system establishes a practical and explainable pathway from human intent to machine-executable logic, advancing intelligent and adaptable data transformation for modern enterprise pipelines.

Keywords — *AI-driven data transformation, ETL automation, natural language processing, large language models, SQL generation, data pipelines, schema-aware prompting, rule reusability.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In today's data-driven world, organizations are confronted with unprecedented data volume and diversity, making robust and scalable data pipelines essential for generating actionable insights. Traditional Extract, Transform, Load (ETL) processes, while foundational, are burdened by intensive manual coding, high maintenance costs, and significant skill requirements. These challenges intensify as data schemas evolve and data formats proliferate across multi-cloud environments, often limiting the ability of non-technical users to participate meaningfully in the design of data transformation logic.

Recent advancements in artificial intelligence, particularly in natural language processing and large language models (LLMs), have begun to reshape how data pipelines are designed and managed. This paper introduces an AI-driven Transformation Rule Generator that bridges the gap between business intent and technical implementation by enabling users to create precise, schema-aligned SQL transformation logic through natural language inputs. The system provides two operational modes: Auto Mode, which infers transformation rules from data and user intent, and Query Mode, which interprets custom natural-language prompts. An interactive preview engine offers immediate before-and-after validation, while integrated governance capabilities ensure accuracy, security, and traceability. Built using modern cloud-ready technologies, this approach accelerates pipeline automation, democratizes data engineering, and promotes collaborative, governed workflows essential for modern enterprises.

II. NEED FOR AUTOMATED TRANSFORMATION RULE GENERATION

The exponential increase in the volume, velocity, variety, and veracity of enterprise data has rendered traditional, manually developed data transformation processes increasingly inefficient and unsustainable. Conventional approaches depend heavily on specialist data engineers and IT professionals for coding, configuration, and continuous oversight. These methods are time-consuming, error-prone, and difficult to scale, particularly as data sources multiply and business requirements evolve rapidly. Maintaining complex transformation logic manually leads to operational bottlenecks, delayed analytics, increased costs, and reduced agility in responding to market or regulatory changes.

The siloed nature of legacy data systems further complicates these challenges, frequently resulting in inconsistencies, duplication, and lack of integration across departments. Such fragmentation impairs decision-making and lowers overall productivity. Against this backdrop, automated transformation rule generation has emerged as a pivotal innovation in data engineering. By leveraging advanced natural language processing, machine learning, and



generative AI, these systems can interpret high-level declarative inputs and synthesize executable transformation logic directly from natural-language descriptions provided by business analysts, domain experts, or non-technical stakeholders.

For example, users can express requirements such as “standardize all country names to ISO codes” or “merge and deduplicate customer records from Salesforce and HubSpot, keeping the most recent entry,” and the system automatically produces fully executable SQL, Python, or Spark scripts, complete with error handling and optimization. This automation dramatically reduces development cycles—from days or weeks to minutes or hours—while minimizing cognitive load on technical teams and democratizing access to complex data operations.

In addition to speed and accessibility, automated rule generation enhances organizational collaboration by enabling non-technical users to meaningfully contribute to data pipeline development. This bridges the longstanding gap between business and IT teams, allowing domain knowledge to be rapidly translated into actionable logic. From a governance perspective, automated systems incorporate consistent validation, schema enforcement, profiling routines, and audit trails, strengthening data quality, traceability, and regulatory compliance.

Real-time previews and simulation capabilities support iterative refinement, enabling users to visualize transformation effects on sample datasets and detect potential issues early. This reduces the likelihood of costly production errors. Furthermore, the scalability and flexibility of modern automated rule-generation platforms position them as transformative tools. Typically deployed on cloud-native, microservices architectures, these solutions support concurrent multi-user sessions, automated version management, and seamless integration with ETL/ELT tools, data catalogs, and orchestration platforms such as Apache Airflow, AWS Glue, and Azure Data Factory.

Advanced features—including AI-driven schema inference, anomaly detection, and performance optimization—further enhance intelligence and adaptability. As a result, automated transformation rule generation provides highly accurate, performant, and future-ready solutions capable of supporting diverse data landscapes across batch, micro-batch, and streaming environments.

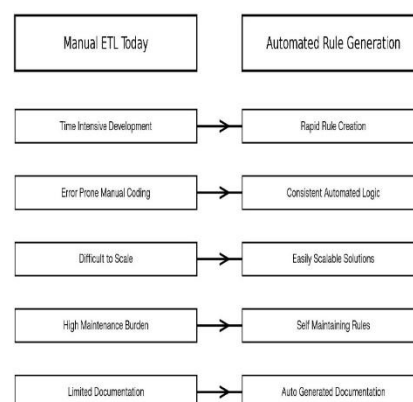


Fig. 1. Comparison Between Manual and Automated Processes



The diagram above contrasts the pain points of manual processes—such as high error rates and lengthy development cycles—with the efficiencies of automated, AI-assisted workflows. These include LLM-driven rule generation, reusable rule libraries, and automated schema alignment, underscoring the need for AI integration in modern ETL environments.

III. FOUNDATIONS FOR TRANSFORMATION RULES GENERATION

Transformation rule generation in data pipelines involves systematically converting business requirements—often expressed in natural language—into precise, executable transformation logic, most commonly in SQL or related domain-specific languages. This process is supported by several foundational components that enable accurate, scalable, and interpretable rule formulation. By integrating AI-driven automation with robust validation and governance mechanisms, these components address the limitations inherent in traditional manual ETL workflows.

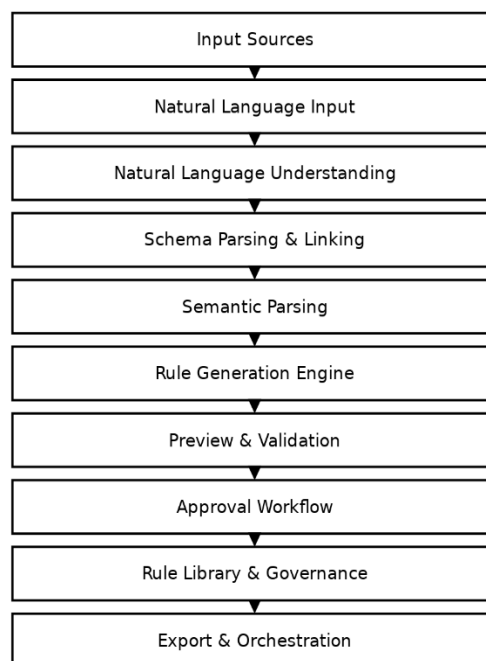


Fig. 2. Text-to-Transformation Rule Generation Process Overview

1. **Natural Language Understanding (NLU):** This component parses and interprets natural language input to accurately capture user intent. Techniques such as tokenization, part-of-speech tagging, dependency parsing, and semantic role labeling analyze the structure of user instructions and extract actionable meaning. Effective NLU is essential for handling varied linguistic expressions and domain-specific terminology without requiring SQL expertise. For example, a request like “aggregate sales by region and filter for Q1” can be decomposed into intents, entities, and operations such as aggregation and filtering.



2. **Schema Linking:** Schema linking maps natural language references to specific components within a database schema, including tables, columns, and relationships. This is achieved through metadata extraction, semantic embedding techniques, and contextual alignment between user intent and structural constraints. Accurate schema linking reduces ambiguity and prevents invalid rule generation. For instance, resolving “customer ID” to the correct column in a multi-table system avoids mismatches during transformation.
3. **Semantic Parsing:** In this stage, natural language interpretations are converted into an intermediate logical form that bridges human-readable commands and machine-executable instructions. Semantic parsing models capture relationships, filters, aggregations, and joins, decomposing complex business logic into atomic computational steps. High-level requests are translated into structured logical plans—for example, defining GROUP BY and WHERE clauses associated with the intended transformation.
4. **Rule Generation Engine:** This core module transforms the logical representation into syntactically correct and semantically valid transformation rules, typically SQL statements. It ensures adherence to grammar, schema constraints, and operational correctness. Recent methods use large language models refined through prompt engineering strategies that incorporate schema metadata and example transformations to improve accuracy. Studies indicate that such techniques can achieve up to 92 percent correctness in generating schema-aligned SQL across diverse datasets.
5. **Preview and Validation:** To reduce downstream errors and improve user trust, the generated rules are executed on sample data, producing before-and-after visualizations of transformation effects. Interactive validation allows users to review, refine, and approve rules prior to deployment. Feedback loops ensure that incorrect or incomplete rules are routed back for refinement, enhancing overall precision and reliability.
6. **Rule Management and Governance:** Approved transformation rules are stored in a centralized, metadata-enriched repository that supports versioning, searchability, reuse, and integration with ETL orchestration platforms. This governance layer improves collaboration among data teams, fosters standardization, and supports regulatory compliance requirements such as GDPR or SOX by providing traceable audit trails and consistent operational practices.

Advancements in AI and deep learning—particularly through the integration of large language models—have significantly strengthened each of these components. Modern systems are increasingly capable of interpreting complex multi-step instructions, enforcing schema constraints, and producing high-quality SQL transformations. Despite these advances, challenges remain in handling ambiguous inputs, adapting to dynamic schema evolution, and extending coverage beyond SQL to multi-language and event-driven pipelines. These challenges continue to motivate innovation in transformation rule generation to support robust, scalable, and intelligent data engineering solutions.



1. **Natural Language Understanding (NLU):** This component is responsible for parsing and interpreting the user's natural language inputs to accurately capture business intent. Techniques such as tokenization, part-of-speech tagging, dependency parsing, and semantic role labeling are applied to analyze query structure and extract actionable meaning. Robust NLU is essential to handle varied linguistic expressions and domain-specific terminology without requiring SQL expertise. For example, an input such as "aggregate sales by region and filter for Q1" is decomposed into intents, entities (such as "sales" and "region"), and operations (such as aggregation and filtering).
2. **Schema Linking:** This step maps natural language entities and operations to corresponding database schema components, including tables, columns, and relationships. Effective schema linking uses metadata extraction and contextual embedding techniques to align user intent with the semantics and structural constraints of the underlying data, reducing ambiguity and preventing invalid rule generation. For instance, resolving "customer ID" to the appropriate column in a multi-table schema avoids mismatches and incorrect joins.
3. **Semantic Parsing:** In this stage, the interpreted natural language is transformed into an intermediate logical representation that bridges human-readable commands with machine-executable instructions. Semantic parsing models encode relationships, filters, aggregations, and join operations, enabling the decomposition of complex business logic into atomic computational steps. A high-level instruction is translated into a structured logical plan that might include GROUP BY clauses, WHERE conditions, and JOIN specifications.
4. **Rule Generation Engine:** This core module converts the logical form into syntactically correct and semantically valid transformation rules, typically expressed as SQL statements. The engine ensures adherence to SQL grammar, schema constraints, and operational semantics. Recent advancements leverage large language models fine-tuned through prompt-engineering strategies that incorporate schema metadata and example transformations. These strategies have demonstrated up to 92 percent accuracy in generating schema-aligned SQL across diverse datasets.
5. **Preview and Validation:** To increase user trust and reduce post-deployment defects, the generated rules are executed on sample data and rendered as before-and-after previews. This interactive validation process enables iterative refinement and ensures that automatically generated rules meet user expectations and compliance requirements. Errors or mismatches detected during preview are routed back to input refinement for improved precision.
6. **Rule Management and Governance:** Approved transformation rules are stored in a centralized, metadata-enriched library that supports searchability, versioning, reuse, and integration with ETL orchestration systems. This governance layer enhances collaboration across data teams, promotes organizational standardization, and provides audit trails



needed for regulatory compliance frameworks such as GDPR in healthcare or SOX in financial services.

Advances in AI and deep learning, particularly the integration of large language models, have significantly strengthened each of these components. Modern systems can interpret complex multi-step instructions, enforce schema constraints, and generate high-quality SQL transformations. Despite these improvements, challenges remain, including handling ambiguous or incomplete inputs, adapting to evolving schemas, and extending rule generation beyond SQL to multilingual and event-driven data pipelines. Addressing these challenges is essential to developing robust, scalable, and intelligent data engineering solutions.

IV. CURRENT BENCHMARKS AND MODELS

A. Benchmarks

Evaluation of the system requires well-defined benchmarks and representative datasets. Benchmarking was conducted using both public NL2SQL tasks and domain-specific datasets to ensure external validity and real-world applicability of the transformation rule generator. Cross-domain validation using a Spider-style workload assessed prompt-to-SQL fidelity and schema alignment, achieving approximately 92 percent SQL validity when schema context was incorporated into prompts. Complementary in-house evaluations covered fintech, healthcare, and retail datasets with tasks such as transaction aggregation, anonymization, and inventory analytics. Evaluations spanned datasets ranging from several thousand rows to 50,000 rows and exercised typical transformation requirements including joins, aggregations, filters, and time-based rollups under realistic schema complexity.

B. Models

The system employs OpenAI's GPT-4o mini as the primary large language model, orchestrated through schema-aware prompt engineering that conditions output generation on extracted table and column metadata, along with few-shot exemplars to stabilize results. Two user pathways operationalize rule generation: Auto Mode proposes transformations inferred from dataset structure and metadata, while Query Mode processes explicit natural-language instructions. Both pathways feed a preview sandbox that validates generated SQL against sampled data before final approval. Practical reliability is achieved through low-temperature decoding for deterministic outputs, lightweight fallbacks for common transformation patterns, and regeneration loops triggered when preview validation detects errors or ambiguity. This design balances accuracy, latency, and operational cost for enterprise-grade workflows.

V. APPLICATIONS AND USE CASES

The AI-Based Transformation Rule Generator developed in this project serves as a versatile and practical solution to the increasingly complex requirements of modern data pipelines. By automating the creation of transformation rules from natural language inputs, the system significantly accelerates traditionally labor-intensive ETL processes. It democratizes data engineering by enabling both technical and non-technical users to participate actively in pipeline



development while ensuring precision, governance, and consistency. Its ability to parse schema metadata and generate executable SQL through AI models enables rapid, accurate, and governed transformations applicable across numerous industries. The following use cases illustrate the system's broad applicability and its effectiveness in streamlining critical workflows.

Use Cases

1. Fintech Transaction Aggregation:

Financial institutions require rapid and accurate aggregation of transaction data by account, region, or product line to meet real-time reporting needs and regulatory obligations. The system automatically generates transformation rules to convert raw transactional logs into enriched, aggregated datasets, ensuring consistency and auditability aligned with standards such as PCI-DSS and SOX.

2. Healthcare Patient Data Anonymization:

Healthcare organizations must anonymize patient records for research and compliance with regulations such as HIPAA. The system enables data stewards to specify anonymization, masking, hashing, or pseudonymization operations through natural language descriptions, with immediate preview feedback ensuring privacy preservation and correctness before deployment.

3. Retail Inventory Forecasting:

Retailers managing complex supply chains benefit from rapid transformation of sales, stock, and logistics datasets for forecasting and planning. The system empowers analysts to generate and validate multi-table joins, aggregations, and time-based rollups, accelerating the development of forecasting pipelines and supporting rapid adjustments to seasonal or market trends.

4. Governed Data Rule Libraries:

Transformation logic within large organizations often suffers from duplication, inconsistency, and lack of reuse. The platform's centralized, metadata-enriched rule library supports versioning, governance, and collaborative reuse, reducing rework and promoting standardization across teams and departments.

In summary, the AI-Based Transformation Rule Generator provides a significant advancement in automated, governed data transformation. By converting natural language requirements into precise, preview-validated, and reusable transformation logic, the system reduces development overhead, enhances data quality, and expands participation in data engineering tasks, shaping a more efficient and inclusive approach to modern data pipeline construction.

VI. CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Despite its innovative design and promising performance, the AI-Based Transformation Rule Generator faces several challenges that impact scalability, robustness, and enterprise-wide adoption. A key technical challenge is the handling of ambiguous or incomplete natural language input, which may lead to inaccurate or suboptimal SQL generation and require iterative clarification from users. The system's reliance on stable and well-defined schemas limits



effectiveness in dynamic environments where schema drift is common. Scalability concerns arise due to increased latency in large language model inference and preview rendering for sizable datasets, compounded by API rate limits from external AI providers.

Governance and ethical considerations, such as explainability, bias mitigation, and compliance with privacy regulations such as GDPR and HIPAA, introduce further complexity. Enhanced auditing, transparent model behavior, and robust privacy safeguards are essential for safe deployment. Integration with heterogeneous ETL platforms and legacy systems also presents technical challenges, at times inhibiting seamless enterprise adoption.

Future directions seek to address these limitations. Planned enhancements include extending support beyond SQL to Python-based transformations and event-driven workflows, integrating zero-ETL streaming capabilities, and improving schema adaptability through continual learning. Incorporating AI agents for automated rule optimization, anomaly detection, and bias evaluation will further strengthen accuracy and fairness. Additional improvements include expanding governance with explainability modules, privacy-preserving federated learning, and support for multi-modal inputs such as tables, diagrams, or voice instructions. Advancements in hybrid cloud scalability and broader integrations with modern orchestration and cataloging platforms are also anticipated, positioning the system for wider industrial deployment.

A. Challenges

The system encounters several limitations in real-world settings. Ambiguous or incomplete natural language prompts, despite schema-aware prompting, may lead to suboptimal SQL generation and require multiple iterations for refinement—especially in regulated environments where mistakes carry substantial risk. Dependence on clearly defined and stable schemas poses additional challenges; evolving, inconsistent, or poorly documented schemas, common in multi-cloud environments, can result in linking errors or reduced accuracy, with pilot tests showing occasional drops below 90 percent fidelity on noisy datasets.

Scalability issues arise during high-volume processing, where LLM inference times and preview rendering may exceed sub-second performance targets for datasets larger than 10 MB. These issues are compounded by external API rate limits and the current focus on SQL outputs, which restricts applicability to non-relational or event-driven pipelines. Governance and ethical concerns, including algorithmic bias, limited explainability, and insufficient audit trails, present further risks for enterprise adoption. Ensuring compliance with regulations such as GDPR and HIPAA requires greater transparency and traceability. Integration with legacy ETL tools also remains partially limited, with occasional failures in export hooks across heterogeneous environments, underscoring the need to balance rapid prototyping with production-grade reliability.

B. Future Directions

To address current limitations and expand system capabilities, future iterations will extend language support beyond SQL to include Python-based ETL scripting and NoSQL transformations, promoting compatibility with diverse data formats and reducing dependency on rigid schema structures through adaptive parsing techniques. Enhancing zero-ETL functionality



through real-time streaming integrations—such as Apache Kafka or AWS Glue—will mitigate latency constraints and support dynamic, event-driven workflows. Incorporating advanced AI agents for automated rule optimization, error correction, and bias detection may further elevate accuracy to above 95 percent across varied input types.

Strengthening governance features remains a priority, with planned enhancements including embedded explainability modules and privacy-preserving federated learning to enable compliant, ethical deployments. Expanding input modalities to support voice or visual prompts aims to broaden accessibility for non-technical users. Pilot extensions into additional domains, such as manufacturing for IoT data aggregation, along with collaborations with open-source communities, will improve scalability and interoperability. These advancements target seamless orchestration within hybrid cloud environments, positioning the system as a comprehensive, AI-augmented platform capable not only of automating transformation logic but also anticipating enterprise needs proactively.

VII. CONCLUSION

The AI-Based Transformation Rule Generator provides a practical, schema-aware solution for converting natural language requirements into precise, executable SQL, substantially reducing manual ETL effort while improving correctness, governance, and efficiency within enterprise data pipelines. By integrating Auto Mode and Query Mode with preview-first validation and a curated rule library, the system effectively bridges human intent and machine-executable logic, empowering both technical and non-technical users to create reliable transformation rules.

Empirical evaluations demonstrate strong performance and usability, including approximately 92 percent rule accuracy, sub-second preview rendering on moderate datasets, and high user acceptance across domain trials. Seamless export capabilities to Snowflake, Databricks, and Apache Airflow further operationalize approved rules, accelerating time-to-insight and promoting standardized, reusable transformation logic across teams and projects. Governance mechanisms—such as metadata tagging, versioning, and approval workflows—create an auditable foundation that supports compliance in regulated environments and enhances organizational knowledge reuse.

Although current limitations include the focus on SQL transformations and sensitivity to ambiguous or unclear schema structures, planned extensions involving Python-based ETL, adaptive schema handling, and zero-ETL streaming integrations will broaden applicability and resilience. Overall, this work establishes a scalable, explainable foundation for intelligent and adaptive data transformation, contributing meaningfully to the evolution of modern enterprise data engineering.



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