

new series

Linguistic Resources for Natural Language Processing

Predicate Driven Grammar

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This book is about "Predicate Driven Grammar" (PDG), a new type of linguistic grammar. PDG is strongly influenced by the Sense-Text-Model and by the writings of Zellig Harris and Maurice Gross. Unlike most other grammars, PDG presupposes a language to be a relation over the Cartesian product of a set of texts and a set of meanings. A PDG assigns to each text the set of its meanings and to each meaning the set of its texts and, therefore, relates each two texts that are paraphrases, no matter if they are texts of the same or of different languages. In other words, a PDG is a theory of intralingual and interlingual paraphrasing (also known as translating). A PDG is supposed to achieve this by respecting certain fundamental properties of language: ambiguity (the property of texts to have several meanings), polymorphism (the property of meanings to have several texts), predicate-basedness and non-modularity. The term "predicate-basedness" is supposed to refer to that fact that each predicate of a natural language comes with its very own set of syntax rules. The term "non-modularity" is supposed to refer to the fact that each syntax rule of a natural-language predicate comes with its very own semantics.

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Electronic Dictionaries, Tagsets and Tagging

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This monograph examines the state of the art in the area of electronic dictionaries and in particular their application in natural language processing tasks. The book reviews the (brief) history of electronic dictionaries, the approaches and underlying assumptions of existing attempts at exhaustive lexical coverage for languages like English, German, French and others. The author also seriously challenges the adequacy of current practices in the area of tagging; it is shown that not only is the information in tagsets far from sufficient, the fact that tagging methods are typically restricted to single word forms and to syntactic categories (instead of to complex lexical units and their semantic categories) diminishes their usefulness tremendously when it comes to parsing sentences. Given the kind of lexical units used in tagging, it comes as no surprise that very few parsing results can really be considered to be correct. The book also contains interesting new statistics about the distribution of lexical units in large corpora and the problem of how to deal with ambiguity in texts.

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