

Presenting FrameNet: A Large Lexical Database and the Communities it can Serve

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Abstract

In my talk I want to accomplish several things.

First, to provide linguistic arguments for deciding on the nature of the appropriate level of lexical description. I will be taking an “encoding” or “onomasiological” perspective, grouping words according to the functions they serve in particular semantic contexts, rather than taking words one at a time and exploring their uses. This puts me at the splitting end of the splitting-versus-lumping continuum, but I think I’ve got good reasons for this so I can avoid some of the excessive polysemy of WordNet. Another aspect of the approach is to recognize multi-word units without needing to include observations about them in the sense descriptions of their component words.

Second, I want to show the consequences of this stand in the work of building the FrameNet database. I want to describe the nature of the database itself, the steps through which my team of researchers do their work, and the MySQL browser that Hiroaki Sato (Senshu University) has created for exploring the data.

Lastly, I hope to demonstrate some pilot efforts to use the FrameNet database in various NLP applications, both by members of the FrameNet team and others who have been using our data.