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Preface

We are delighted to present you with this volume containing the papers accepted for presentation at the SRSL 2009, the 2^{nd} Workshop on Semantic Representation of Spoken Language, held in Athens, Greece, on March 30^{th} 2009.

The aim of the SRSL 2009 workshop is to bring together researchers interested in the semantic representation of spoken corpora, especially spontaneous speech. On one hand, the semantic gap between contents conveyed by natural languages and their formal representations is a burning aspect in tasks such as information extraction and corpus annotation. The current state-of-the-art supports solutions from very different backgrounds and perspectives, but still remain important and complex issues to deal with, such as the accurate segmentation of speech in semantic units. The discussion of those aspects are one of the main reasons for this workshop. On the other hand, spoken language is a pending issue in computational linguistics and artificial intelligence, both traditionally focused on written language, although semantic processing of speech is necessary for the understanding of both natural and human-machine interaction. Finally, the problems found when trying to linguistically structure spontaneous speech are leading to works focused on its semantic representation. In-depth research on the semantic representation of speech can provide us with a suitable basis for further analysis of related linguistic levels, like prosody or pragmatics.

This event is a highly collaborative effort and we are grateful to all those who helped us construct the program: the authors for submitting their research results; the reviewers for delivering their reviews and discussing them whenever there was some disagreement; and the EACL 2009 organizers for their support.

Wishing you a very enjoyable time at SRSL 2009!

Manuel Alcántara-Plá and Thierry Declerck
SRSL 2009 Program Chairs

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