Head Finalization: Translation from SVO to SOV

Prof. Hideki Isozaki,
Okayama Prefectural University

Abstract: Asian languages such as Japanese and Korean follow Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) word order, which is completely different from European languages such as English and French that follow Subject-Verb-Object word. The difference is not limited to the position of "Object" or the accusative case, and the former is also called head-final and the latter is also called head-initial. Because of the difference, phrase-based SMT between SVO and SOV does not work well. This talk introduces Head Finalization that reorders sentences into the head-final word order. According to the result of the NTCIR-9 workshop, Head Finalization was quite effective for English-to-Japanese patent translation.

Bio: Hideki Isozaki is a professor of Okayama Prefectural University, Japan. He received B.E., M.E., and Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo in 1983, 1986, and 1998 respectively. After joining Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT) in 1986, he has worked on logical inference, information extraction, named entity recognition, question answering, summarization, and machine translation. From 1990 to 1991, he was a visiting scholar at Stanford University. He has authored or coauthored over 100 papers and Japanese books including *LaTeX with Complete Control* and *Question Answering Systems*.