

Language Technology: A View From The Trenches

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Abstract

Computers that can listen and talk? Helpers that read your books and answer complex questions? Natural language processing has always made big promises, and has left many people with a healthy dose of skepticism. The truth is that language technology has had a bigger impact than you may think, by working behind the scenes.

In this talk, I will discuss the changing role of NLP in applications, and the trends I have observed over the last 5 years with my work at Google. I will be focusing on the practicalities of applying NLP techniques to real-world problems, avoiding common pitfalls, and learning from our most valuable resource: our users.