Second Workshop on Computational Approaches to Linguistic Creativity

Proceedings of the Workshop

Introduction

It is generally agreed upon that creativity is an important property of human language. For example, speakers routinely coin new words, employ novel metaphors, and play with words through puns. Indeed, such creative processes take place at all levels of language from the lexicon, to syntax, semantics, and discourse. Creativity allows speakers to express themselves with their own individual style. It further provides new ways of looking at the world, by describing something through the use of unusual comparisons for effect or emphasis, and thus making language more engaging and fun. Listeners are typically able to understand creative language without any difficulties. On the other hand, generating and recognizing creative language presents a tremendous challenge for natural language processing (NLP) systems.

The recognition of instances of linguistic creativity, and the computation of their meaning, constitute one of the most challenging problems for a variety of NLP tasks, such as machine translation, text summarization, information retrieval, dialog systems, and sentiment analysis. Moreover, models of linguistic creativity are necessary for systems capable of generating story narratives, jokes, or poetry. Nevertheless, despite the importance of linguistic creativity in many NLP tasks, it still remains unclear how to model, simulate, or evaluate linguistic creativity. Furthermore, research on topics related to linguistic creativity has not received a great deal of attention at major computational linguistics conferences in recent years.

CALC-09 was the first venue to present research on a wide range of topics related to linguistic creativity including computational models of metaphor, generation of creative texts, and measuring morphological and constructional productivity. CALC-10 is the continuation of our efforts to provide a venue for research on all aspects and modalities of linguistic creativity.

For CALC-10, we received a total of nine submissions. Six papers were accepted for oral presentation. The topics range from understanding to generating creative language to tools for creative writing. We are especially grateful to the authors who submitted excellent papers and to our hard working program committee. We would like to express our enormous gratitude to the U.S. National Science Foundation (IIS award #: 0906244) for the support of the workshop which allowed us to invite Pablo Gervás to give a keynote talk, and whose paper is included in this volume. Pablo Gervás is Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Artificial Intelligence at The Complutense University of Madrid. In his paper, he reviews recent research and implementation efforts in computational creativity, automated story telling, and poetry generation, exploring how the computational models relate to human performance. Last but not least, we want to thank Claudia Leacock and Richard Wicentowski, the publication chairs.

Paul Cook and Anna Feldman

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Juergen Trouvain, Saarland University (Germany)

Invited Speaker:

Pablo Gervás, Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain)

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Workshop Program

Saturday, June 5, 2010

1:30–1:45   Opening remarks

Understanding creative language

1:45–2:10   *Automatic conjugation and identification of regular and irregular verb neologisms in Spanish*
Luz Rello and Eduardo Basterrechea

2:10–2:35   *Mining and Classification of Neologisms in Persian Blogs*
Karine Megerdoomian and Ali Hadjarian

2:35–3:00   *Comparing Semantic Role Labeling with Typed Dependency Parsing in Computational Metaphor Identification*
Eric P. S. Baumer, James P. White and Bill Tomlinson

3:00–3:30   **Break**

Invited talk

3:00–4:30   *Engineering Linguistic Creativity: Bird Flight and Jet Planes*
Pablo Gervás

4:30–4:40   **Break**

Generating creative language

4:40–5:05   *An alternate approach towards meaningful lyric generation in Tamil*
Ananth Ramakrishnan A and Sobha Lalitha Devi

5:05–5:30   *Representing Story Plans in SUMO*
Jeffrey Cua, Ruli Manurung, Ethel Ong and Adam Pease

5:30–5:55   *Computational Creativity Tools for Songwriters*
Burr Settles

5:55–6:00   Closing remarks