

HLT/NAACL-07

Computational Approaches to Figurative Language

Proceedings of Workshop

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Introduction

Figurative language, such as metaphor, metonymy, idioms, personification, simile, among others, is in abundance in natural discourse. It is an effective apparatus to heighten effect and convey various meanings, such as humor, irony, sarcasm, affection, etc. Figurative language can be found not only in fiction, but also in everyday speech, newspaper articles, research papers, and even technical reports. The recognition of figurative language use and the computation of figurative language meaning constitute one of the hardest problems for a variety of natural language processing tasks, such as machine translation, text summarization, information retrieval, and question answering. Resolution of this problem involves both a solid understanding of the distinction between literal and non-literal language and the development of effective computational models that can make the appropriate semantic interpretation automatically.

The emphasis of this workshop is on computational approaches to figurative language, be it modeling or natural language processing. The goal of the workshop is to provide a venue for researchers to reach a better understanding of the new issues and challenges that need to be tackled in dealing with non-literal phenomena. We are very happy that the workshop has attracted people from different disciplines and hope that the workshop will continue to live in the future.

It is our pleasure to thank our invited speaker, Rada Mihalcea (of University of North Texas), for her presentation "The Language of Humor". We would also like to thank all the members of the program committee for their advice and for reviewing the papers carefully on a tight schedule. Enjoy the workshop!

Anna Feldman and Xiaofei Lu
Co-Chairs

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Anna Feldman, Montclair State University
Xiaofei Lu, The Pennsylvania State University

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Invited Speaker:

Rada Mihalcea, University of North Texas, USA

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Conference Program

Thursday, April 26, 2007

- 8:45–9:00 Opening Remarks
- 9:00–9:30 *Lexical Influences on the Perception of Sarcasm*
Roger Kreuz and Gina Caucci
- 9:30–10:00 *Corpus-driven Metaphor Harvesting*
Astrid Reining and Birte Lönneker-Rodman
- 10:00–10:30 *Hunting Elusive Metaphors Using Lexical Resources*
Saisuresh Krishnakumaran and Xiaojin Zhu
- 10:30–11:00 Break
- 11:00–11:30 *Active Learning for the Identification of Nonliteral Language*
Julia Birke and Anoop Sarkar
- 11:30–12:30 Invited Talk: The Language of Humor
Rada Mihalcea

