

ENLG 2011

**The 13th European
Workshop on Natural
Language Generation**

Proceedings

28 – 30 September 2011

ENLG 2011 is sponsored by



Nancy-Université



©2011 The Association for Computational Linguistics

Order copies of this and other ACL proceedings from:

Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)
209 N. Eighth Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
USA
Tel: +1-570-476-8006
Fax: +1-570-476-0860
acl@aclweb.org

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that we present the current volume of papers accepted for presentation at the 13th European Workshop on Natural Language Generation (ENLG 2011), which will be held from September 28th to 30th, 2011 at Loria in Nancy, France.

The ENLG 2009 workshop continued a biennial series of workshops on natural language generation that has been running since 1987 and alternates with INLG, the International Conference on Natural Language Generation. Previous European workshops have been held at Royaumont, Edinburgh, Judenstein, Pisa, Leiden, Duisburg, Toulouse, Budapest, Aberdeen, Dagstuhl and Athens. Together with INLG, the ENLG workshop is the main regular forum for presenting and discussing research in Natural Language Generation.

ENLG 2011 invited submissions on all topics related to natural language generation. We received 41 submissions of long and short papers from all over the world. Of these 13 long papers and 12 short papers were accepted for presentation. The long papers will be presented orally, and the short papers as posters.

In addition, ENLG 2011 hosts Generation Challenges 2011. This year, three shared task evaluation competitions were organized under the umbrella of Generation Challenges 2011: the Surface Realisation Challenge (Belz, Hogan, White, and Stent), the Challenge on Generating Instructions in Virtual Environments (Striegnitz, Denis, Gargett, Garoufi, Koller, and Theune) and the Helping Our Own Challenge (Dale and Kilgariff).

The first part of this volume contains the 25 research papers that will be presented at ENLG 2011. The second part is devoted to the Generation Challenges 2011 session. It contains overview reports on the active and planned challenges and system descriptions of all participating teams.

We are indebted to the authors and to the members of our program committee whose hard work contributed to making this a collection of high quality research papers. We are also delighted that Oliver Lemon, Johanna Moore and Jeff Orkin agreed to give invited talks at ENLG 2011. And last but not least, many thanks go to the local organisation team, Nicolas Alcaraz, Anne Lise Charbonnier, Alexandre Denis, Alejandra Lorenzo, Shashi Narayan and Laura Perez-Beltrachini for handling the preparation of the meeting.

Claire Gardent and Kristina Striegnitz
Program co-Chairs for ENLG 2011

Program Co-Chairs:

Claire Gardent, CNRS/Loria, Nancy, France

Kristina Striegnitz, Union College, USA

Local Organizers:

Nicolas Alcaraz, INRIA Nancy, France

Anne-Lise Charbonnier, INRIA Nancy, France

Alexandre Denis, CNRS/LORIA, Nancy, France

Alejandra Lorenzo, INRIA/LORIA, Nancy, France

Shashi Narayan, U. Nancy/LORIA, Nancy, France

Laura Perez-Beltrachini, U. Nancy/LORIA, Nancy, France

Program Committee:

John Bateman, University Bremen, Germany

Anja Belz, University of Brighton, UK

Bernd Bohnet, University Stuttgart, Germany

Stephan Busemann, DFKI, Germany

Christian Chiarcos, University of Potsdam, Germany

Norman Creaney, University of Ulster, Ireland

Robert Dale, Macquarie University, Australia

Kees van Deemter, University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Seniz Demir, Tubitak-Bilgem, Turkey

Alexandre Denis, CNRS/LORIA Nancy, France

David DeVault, USC Institute for Creative Technologies, USA

Barbara Di Eugenio, University of Illinois, USA

Roger Evans, University of Brighton, UK

Leo Ferres, University of Concepcion, Chile

Jennifer Foster, Dublin University, Ireland

Albert Gatt, University of Malta, Malta

Josef van Genabith, Dublin City University, Ireland

Pablo Gervas, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

Markus Guhe, University of Edinburgh, UK

John Kelleher, Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland

Alistair Knott, University of Otago, New Zealand

Alexander Koller, University of Saarbrcken, Germany

Stefan Kopp, University of Bielefeld, Germany

Eric Kow, University of Brighton, UK

Emiel Kraemer, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

Geert-Jan Kruijff, DFKI, Germany

Ivana Kruijff-Korbayova, DFKI, Germany

Oliver Lemon, Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland

James Lester, North Carolina State University, USA
Keith van der Linden, Calvin College, USA
François Mairesse, University of Cambridge, UK
Kathleen McCoy, University of Delaware, USA
David McDonald, SIFT, Inc., USA
Chris Mellish, University of Aberdeen, Scotland
Jon Oberlander, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
Cécile Paris, CSIRO ICT Centre, Australia
Paul Piwek, The Open University, UK
Richard Power, The Open University, UK
Ehud Reiter, University of Aberdeen and Data2Text Ltd, Scotland
Donia Scott, University of Sussex, UK
Advaith Siddharthan, University of Aberdeen, Scotland
Ielka van der Sluis, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
Yaji Sripada, University of Aberdeen, Scotland
Manfred Stede, University of Potsdam, Germany
Amanda Stent, AT&T Labs Research, USA
Matthew Stone, Rutgers, USA
Michael Strube, EML Research, Germany
Mariët Theune, University of Twente, The Netherlands
Takenobu Tokugana, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan
Jette Viethen, Macquarie University, Australia
Carl Vogel, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
Michael White, Ohio State University, USA
Sandra Williams, the Open University, UK
Tie-Jun Zhao, Harbin Institute of Technology, China
Michael Zock, CNRS/LIF Université de la Méditerranée Aix-Marseille II, France

Invited Speakers:

Oliver Lemon, Heriot Watt University, Scotland
Johanna Moore, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
Jeff Orkin, MIT Media Lab, USA

Table of Contents

Oral Presentations

<i>Talkin' bout a revolution (statistically speaking)</i> (Invited Talk) Oliver Lemon	1
<i>Text Simplification using Typed Dependencies: A Comparison of the Robustness of Different Generation Strategies</i> Advait Siddharthan	2
<i>Generating Affective Natural Language for Parents of Neonatal Infants</i> Saad Mahamood and Ehud Reiter	12
<i>What is in a text and what does it do: Qualitative Evaluations of an NLG system – the BT-Nurse – using content analysis and discourse analysis</i> Rahul Sambaraju, Ehud Reiter, Robert Logie, Andy Mckinlay, Chris McVittie, Albert Gatt and Cindy Sykes	22
<i>Evaluating Saliency Metrics for the Context-Adequate Realization of Discourse Referents</i> Christian Chiarcos	32
<i>The Impact of Visual Context on the Content of Referring Expressions</i> Henriette Viethen, Robert Dale and Markus Guhe	44
<i>A Cross-Linguistic Study on the Production of Multimodal Referring Expressions in Dialogue</i> Ielka Van Der Sluis and Saturnino Luz	53
<i>Two Approaches for Generating Size Modifiers</i> Margaret Mitchell, Kees Van Deemter and Ehud Reiter	63
<i>Using Online Games to Capture, Generate, and Understand Natural Language</i> (Invited Talk) Jeff Orkin	71
<i>Content selection from an ontology-based knowledge base for the generation of football summaries</i> Nadjet Bouayad-Agha, Gerard Casamayor and Leo Wanner	72
<i>Deriving rhetorical relationships from semantic content</i> Richard Power	82
<i>If it may have happened before, it happened, but not necessarily before</i> Albert Gatt and François Portet	91
<i>Adaptive Information Presentation for Spoken Dialogue Systems: Evaluation with real users</i> Verena Rieser, Simon Keizer, Oliver Lemon and Xingkun Liu	102

<i>Combining Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning and Bayesian Networks for Natural Language Generation in Situated Dialogue</i>	
Nina Dethlefs and Heriberto Cuayáhuitl	110
<i>Combining symbolic and corpus-based approaches for the generation of successful referring expressions</i>	
Konstantina Garoufi and Alexander Koller	121
<i>Language Generation for Spoken Dialogue Systems</i> (Invited Talk)	
Johanna D. Moore	132
Poster Presentations	
<i>Adapting SimpleNLG to German</i>	
Marcel Bollmann	133
<i>EasyText: an Operational NLG System</i>	
Laurence Danlos, Frédéric Meunier and Vanessa Combet	139
<i>Towards Generating Text from Discourse Representation Structures</i>	
Valerio Basile and Johan Bos	145
<i>A Policy-Based Approach to Context Dependent Natural Language Generation</i>	
Thomas Bouttat, Edoardo Pignotti, Chris Mellish and Peter Edwards	151
<i>Levels of organisation in ontology verbalisation</i>	
Sandra Williams, Allan Third and Richard Power	158
<i>Using semantic roles to improve summaries</i>	
Diana Trandabâţ	164
<i>Building a Generator for Italian Sign Language</i>	
Alessandro Mazzei	170
<i>Investigation into Human Preference between Common and Unambiguous Lexical Substitutions</i>	
Andrew Walker, Advaith Siddharthan and Andrew Starkey	176
<i>Production of Demonstratives in Dutch, English and Portuguese Dialogues</i>	
Saturnino Luz and Ielka Van Der Sluis	181
<i>Generation of Formal and Informal Sentences</i>	
Fadi Abu Sheikha and Diana Inkpen	187
<i>Glue Rules for Robust Chart Realization</i>	
Michael White	194
<i>Detecting Interesting Event Sequences for Sports Reporting</i>	
François Lareau, Mark Dras and Robert Dale	200

Generation Challenges 2011

<i>Generation Challenges 2011 Preface</i>	
Anja Belz, Albert Gatt, Alexander Koller and Kristina Striegnitz	206
<i>The GRUVE Challenge: Generating Routes under Uncertainty in Virtual Environments</i>	
Srini Janarthanam and Oliver Lemon	208
<i>A Proposal for a Spanish Surface Realization Shared Task</i>	
Pablo Gervás and Miguel Ballesteros	212
<i>The First Surface Realisation Shared Task: Overview and Evaluation Results</i>	
Anja Belz, Mike White, Dominic Espinosa, Eric Kow, Deirdre Hogan and Amanda Stent	217
<i>DCU at Generation Challenges 2011 Surface Realisation Track</i>	
Yuqing Guo, Deirdre Hogan and Josef van Genabith	227
<i>ATT-0: Submission to Generation Challenges 2011 Surface Realization Shared Task</i>	
Amanda Stent	230
<i><StuMaBa >: From Deep Representation to Surface</i>	
Bernd Bohnet, Simon Mille, Benoît Favre and Leo Wanner	232
<i>The OSU System for Surface Realization at Generation Challenges 2011</i>	
Rajakrishnan Rajkumar, Dominic Espinosa and Michael White	236
<i>UCM Submission to the Surface Realization Challenge</i>	
Pablo Gervás	239
<i>Helping Our Own: The HOO 2011 Pilot Shared Task</i>	
Robert Dale and Adam Kilgarriff	242
<i>May I check the English of your paper!!!</i>	
Pinaki Bhaskar, Aniruddha Ghosh, Santanu Pal and Sivaji Bandyopadhyay	250
<i>Handling Outlandish Occurrences: Using Rules and Lexicons for Correcting NLP Articles</i>	
Elitza Ivanova, Delphine Bernhard and Cyril Grouin	254
<i>NUS at the HOO 2011 Pilot Shared Task</i>	
Daniel Dahlmeier, Hwee Tou Ng and Thanh Phu Tran	257
<i>Helping Our Own 2011: UKP Lab System Description</i>	
Torsten Zesch	260
<i>University of Illinois System in HOO Text Correction Shared Task</i>	
Alla Rozovskaya, Mark Sammons, Joshua Gioja and Dan Roth	263
<i>Data-Driven Correction of FunctionWords in Non-Native English</i>	
Adriane Boyd and Detmar Meurers	267

<i>Report on the Second Second Challenge on Generating Instructions in Virtual Environments (GIVE-2.5)</i>	
Kristina Striegnitz, Alexandre Denis, Andrew Gargett, Konstantina Garoufi, Alexander Koller and Mariët Theune	270
<i>Direction giving: an attempt to increase user engagement</i>	
Bob Duncan and Kees van Deemter	280
<i>The Bremen System for the GIVE-2.5 Challenge</i>	
Nina Dethlefs	284
<i>The GIVE-2.5 C Generation System</i>	
David Nicolás Racca, Luciana Benotti and Pablo Duboue	290
<i>CL system: Giving instructions by corpus based selection</i>	
Luciana Benotti and Alexandre Denis	296
<i>The Loria Instruction Generation System L in GIVE 2.5</i>	
Alexandre Denis	302
<i>The Potsdam NLG systems at the GIVE-2.5 Challenge</i>	
Konstantina Garoufi and Alexander Koller	307
<i>The Thumbs Up! Twente system for GIVE 2.5</i>	
Saskia Akkersdijk, Marin Langenbach, Frieder Loch and Mariët Theune	312
<i>Question Generation Shared Task and Evaluation Challenge – Status Report</i>	
Vasile Rus, Brendan Wyse, Paul Piwek, Mihai Lintean, Svetlana Stoyanchev and Cristian Moldovan	318

Conference Program

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

8:30–9:15 Registration

9:15–9:30 Opening Remarks

9:30–10:30 Invited Talk

Talkin' bout a revolution (statistically speaking)

Oliver Lemon

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break

ENLG Talks: Tailoring text to users

11:00–11:30 *Text Simplification using Typed Dependencies: A Comparison of the Robustness of Different Generation Strategies*

Advaith Siddharthan

11:30–12:00 *Generating Affective Natural Language for Parents of Neonatal Infants*

Saad Mahamood and Ehud Reiter

12:00–12:30 *What is in a text and what does it do: Qualitative Evaluations of an NLG system – the BT-Nurse – using content analysis and discourse analysis*

Rahul Sambaraju, Ehud Reiter, Robert Logie, Andy Mckinlay, Chris McVittie, Albert Gatt and Cindy Sykes

12:30–1:30 Lunch

ENLG Talks: Referring expression generation

1:30–2:00 *Evaluating Saliency Metrics for the Context-Adequate Realization of Discourse Referrers*

Christian Chiarcos

2:00–2:30 *The Impact of Visual Context on the Content of Referring Expressions*

Henriette Viethen, Robert Dale and Markus Guhe

2:30–3:00 Coffee Break

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 (continued)

ENLG Talks: Referring expression generation

- 3:00–3:30 *A Cross-Linguistic Study on the Production of Multimodal Referring Expressions in Dialogue*
Ielka Van Der Sluis and Saturnino Luz
- 3:30–4:00 *Two Approaches for Generating Size Modifiers*
Margaret Mitchell, Kees Van Deemter and Ehud Reiter
- 1:30-2:30 Birds-of-a-Feather sessions / SimpleNLG User Group Meeting
- 6:30-8:00 Bowling and Drinks

Thursday, September 29, 2011

- 9:30–10:30 Invited Talk
Using Online Games to Capture, Generate, and Understand Natural Language
Jeff Orkin
- 10:30–11:00 Coffee Break
- ENLG Talks: Knowledge representation and NLG — expressing semantic, rhetorical and temporal relations**
- 11:00–11:30 *Content selection from an ontology-based knowledge base for the generation of football summaries*
Nadjet Bouayad-Agha, Gerard Casamayor and Leo Wanner
- 11:30–12:00 *Deriving rhetorical relationships from semantic content*
Richard Power
- 12:00–12:30 *If it may have happened before, it happened, but not necessarily before*
Albert Gatt and François Portet
- 12:30–1:30 Lunch

Thursday, September 29, 2011 (continued)

Generation Challenges Talks and Posters

- 1:30–1:40 Generation Challenges Introductory Remarks
- 1:40–2:55 Result Presentation: Surface Realization (SR), Helping Our Own (HOO), Generating Instructions in Virtual Environments (GIVE)
- 2:55–3:40 Presentation of Planned Tasks: SR Spanish, Question Generation 2nd Edition, Generating Route Instructions under Uncertainty in Virtual Environments (GRUVE)
- 3:40–5:00 Generation Challenges Poster Session (with coffee)
- 6:00–7:00 Guided Tour in the Old Town
- 7:30 Banquet

Friday, September 30, 2011

ENLG Talks: Optimizing task success in interactive systems

- 9:30–10:00 *Adaptive Information Presentation for Spoken Dialogue Systems: Evaluation with real users*
Verena Rieser, Simon Keizer, Oliver Lemon and Xingkun Liu
- 10:00–10:30 *Combining Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning and Bayesian Networks for Natural Language Generation in Situated Dialogue*
Nina Dethlefs and Heriberto Cuayáhuitl
- 10:30–11:00 *Combining symbolic and corpus-based approaches for the generation of successful referring expressions*
Konstantina Garoufi and Alexander Koller
- 11:00–12:30 ENLG Posters (see below for a detailed list)
- 12:30–1:30 Lunch

Friday, September 30, 2011 (continued)

- 1:30–2:30 Invited Talk
- Language Generation for Spoken Dialogue Systems*
Johanna D. Moore
- 2:30–3:00 Coffee Break
- 3:00–5:00 Generation Challenges Working Groups
- 5:00–5:30 Reports from the Working Groups and Closing Remarks

ENLG Poster Presentations

Adapting SimpleNLG to German
Marcel Bollmann

EasyText: an Operational NLG System
Laurence Danlos, Frédéric Meunier and Vanessa Combet

Towards Generating Text from Discourse Representation Structures
Valerio Basile and Johan Bos

A Policy-Based Approach to Context Dependent Natural Language Generation
Thomas Bouttaz, Edoardo Pignotti, Chris Mellish and Peter Edwards

Levels of organisation in ontology verbalisation
Sandra Williams, Allan Third and Richard Power

Using semantic roles to improve summaries
Diana Trandabâț

Building a Generator for Italian Sign Language
Alessandro Mazzei

Investigation into Human Preference between Common and Unambiguous Lexical Substitutions
Andrew Walker, Advait Siddharthan and Andrew Starkey

Friday, September 30, 2011 (continued)

Production of Demonstratives in Dutch, English and Portuguese Dialogues
Saturnino Luz and Ielka Van Der Sluis

Generation of Formal and Informal Sentences
Fadi Abu Sheikha and Diana Inkpen

Glue Rules for Robust Chart Realization
Michael White

Detecting Interesting Event Sequences for Sports Reporting
François Lareau, Mark Dras and Robert Dale

