

# Computational Linguistics

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## Special Issue on Inheritance: II

### Articles

- |  |   |     |
|--|---|-----|
| <b>Making DATR Work for Speech: Lexicon Compilation in SUNDIAL</b>                               | François Andry, Norman M. Fraser, Scott McGlashan, Simon Thornton, and Nick J. Youd | 245 |
| <b>Inheritance and Complementation: A Case Study of <i>Easy</i> Adjectives and Related Nouns</b> | Dan Flickinger and John Nerbonne  | 269 |
| <b>A Practical Approach to Multiple Default Inheritance for Unification-Based Lexicons</b>       | Graham Russell, Afzal Ballim, John Carroll, and Susan Warwick-Armstrong             | 311 |

### Technical Correspondence

- |  |  |     |
|--|--|-----|
| <b>Automatic Clustering of Languages</b> | Vladimir Batagelj, Tomaž Pisanski, and Damijana Keržič | 339 |
|--|--|-----|

### Book Reviews

- |   |  |     |
|---|--|-----|
| <b>Towards a Theory of Cognition and Computing</b><br>J. Gerard Wolff   | <i>Reviewed by Philip Swann</i>          | 353 |
| <b>Papers in Laboratory Phonology I: Between the Grammar and Physics of Speech</b><br>John Kingston and Mary E. Beckman, eds.                               | <i>Reviewed by Scott Meredith</i>        | 357 |
| <b>Sémantique et Recherches Cognitives</b><br>François Rastier  | <i>Reviewed by Jean-Pierre Corriveau</i> | 360 |
| <b>Computational Morphology: Practical Mechanisms for the English Lexicon</b><br>Graeme D. Ritchie, Graham J. Russell, Alan W. Black, and Stephen G. Pulman | <i>Reviewed by Evan L. Antworth</i>      | 365 |
| <b>Intelligent User Interfaces</b><br>Joseph W. Sullivan and Sherman W. Tyler, eds.   | <i>Reviewed by Paul Luff</i>             | 368 |
| <b>Adaptive Parsing: Self-Extending Natural Language Interfaces</b><br>Jill Fain Lehman   | <i>Reviewed by Julia Johnson</i>         | 374 |
| <b>Generalized LR Parsing</b><br>Masaru Tomita, ed.   | <i>Reviewed by Giorgio Satta</i>         | 377 |
| <b>Literature and Cognition</b><br>Jerry R. Hobbs   | <i>Reviewed by Janyce Wiebe</i>          | 382 |
| <b>Briefly Noted</b>  |  | 388 |
- 



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# Editors' Note

Inheritance mechanisms and their implications for description, theory, and processing have become an increasingly important research topic in computational linguistics. In two special issues of *Computational Linguistics*, a sample of current research in this area will be presented.

## **Volume 18, Number 2**

In "Inheritance in Natural Language Processing," Daelemans, De Smedt, and Gazdar outline some of the motivations that have led to the widespread use of inheritance mechanisms in computational linguistics and provide a survey of the recent literature.

Bouma, in "Feature Structures and Nonmonotonicity," introduces default unification as a means of reconciling inheritance with unification grammars. A formalism based on monotonic multiple inheritance in networks of typed feature structures is proposed in Zajac's paper "Inheritance and Constraint-Based Grammar Formalisms."

Some linguistic frameworks have explicitly incorporated inheritance into their theories. One of these is described "Inheritance in Word Grammar" by Fraser and Hudson.

While most work has used inheritance networks as a means to store static information, a number of researchers have also begun to explore their utility in language processing. An example of this is provided by van der Linden in "Incremental Processing and the Hierarchical Lexicon."

## **Volume 18, Number 3**

The main area of application of inheritance networks has been the structure and organization of computational lexicons. In the second of the two special issues, three alternative approaches to inheritance in lexical representation are presented.

Andry, Fraser, McGlashan, Thornton, and Youd employ a DATR lexicon in the context of a Unification Categorical Grammar in "Making DATR Work for Speech: Lexicon Compilation in SUNDIAL."

In "Inheritance and Complementation: A Case Study of Easy Adjectives and Related Nouns," Flickinger and Nerbonne apply a default inheritance framework to the lexical representation of complementation phenomena.

Finally, Russell, Ballim, Carroll, and Warwick-Armstrong introduce a language for defining multiple default inheritance networks for the lexicon, inspired by object-oriented programming, in "A Practical Approach to Multiple Default Inheritance for Unification-Based Lexicons."

Walter Daelemans  
Gerald Gazdar, Guest Editors

