

## **FreeLing: open-source natural language processing for research and development**

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FreeLing is an open-source multilingual language processing library providing a wide range of language analyzers for several languages. It offers text processing and language annotation facilities to natural language processing application developers, simplifying the task of building those applications. FreeLing is customizable and extensible. Developers can use the default linguistic resources (dictionaries, lexicons, grammars, etc.) directly, or extend them, adapt them to specific domains, or even develop new ones for specific languages.

This talk will depict the architecture of the library, overview the recent history of this tool, and summarize the most recent improvements and extensions. Special focus is brought to the fact and consequences of the library being open-source: After five years and over 35,000 downloads, a growing user community has extended the initial three languages (English, Spanish and Catalan) to eight (adding Galician, Italian, Welsh, Portuguese, and Asturian), proving that the collaborative open model is a productive approach for the development of NLP tools and resources. Also, several companies are using FreeLing in their products or internal processes, reverting to the project in the form of commercial licenses or of actual development contributions.