

PALIC 11

**Language, Information
and Computation**



Edited by
Byung-Soo Park and Jong-Bok Kim

Language Education and Research Institute
Kyung Hee University

Language, Information and Computation

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Contents

Foreword	VII
Classifiers and Semantic Type Coercion: Motivating a New Classification of Classifiers <i>Kathleen Ahrens and Chu-Ren Huang</i>	1
Configuration vs. Information: An Informational Explanation of Command Relations <i>Jean-Yves Morin</i>	11
Subject-oriented and non Subject-oriented Long-distance Anaphora: an Integrated Approach <i>António Branco and Palmira Marrafa</i>	21
English Free Relative Clause Constructions: From a Constraint-Based Perspective <i>Jong-Bok Kim and Byung-Soo Park</i>	31
Preferences and Defaults for Definiteness and Number in Japanese to German Machine Translation <i>Melanie Siegel</i>	43
Underspecified Japanese Semantics in a Machine Translation System <i>Björn Gambäck, Christian Lieske and Yoshiki Mori</i>	53
Improving Automated Alignment in Multilingual Corpora <i>J.A. Campbell, N. Chatterjee, M. Manela and A. Fang</i>	63
The Truth-Conditional Treatment of Ambiguity and Chinese Serial Verb Constructions <i>Alice Yin Wa Chan</i>	73
Syntactic Causatives in Korean: Clause Union or Not? <i>Keon Soo Lee</i>	83
A Discourse Approach to Causal Sentences in Mandarin Chinese <i>Mei-chih Tsai</i>	93
Light Verb Constructions and Structural Ambiguity <i>Hee-Rahk Chae</i>	99

Ambiguous ((Par(t)(it))(ion))(s)(in)) Thai Text <i>Doung Cooper</i>	109
Neural Networks in Chinese Lexical Classification <i>Md Maruf Hasan and Kim-Teng Lua</i>	119
A Logical Structure for the Construction of Machine Readable Dictionaries <i>Byung-Jin Choi, Jae-Sung Lee, Woon-Jae Lee, and Key-Sun Choi</i>	129
Extraction of Thematic Roles from Dictionary Definitions <i>Michael McHale and Sung-Hyun Myaeng</i>	137
Beyond Telicity and Affected-Theme: Semantic Factors Contributing to the Resultative Interpretation of Predicates in Japanese <i>Chilharu Uda</i>	147
The Semantic Structure of Japanese Adjectives with -tai Derivational Suffix <i>Akira Ikeya</i>	157
SINICA CORPUS: Design Methodology for Balanced Corpora <i>Keh-Jiann Chen, Chu-Ren Huang, Li-Ping Chang and Hui-Li Hsu</i>	167
Finding a Deficiency of a Meaning in a Bunrui-goi-hyou Entry by Using Corpora <i>Hiroyuki Shinnou</i>	177
The Effect of -ga Sequences on Processing Japanese Multiply Center-Embedded Sentences <i>Keiko Uehara and Dianne Bradley</i>	187
The Event-Dependent Individuals and the Ambiguity of Donkey Sentences <i>Eun-Joo Kwak</i>	197
Are Pronouns Always Zero in Zero Pronominal Languages?: The Case in Japanese <i>Satoshi Uehara</i>	209
Markup of Korean Dictionary Entries <i>Beom-mo Kang</i>	219

A Proposal of Korean Conjugation System and Its Application to Morphological Analysis <i>Yoshitaka Hirano and Yuji Matsumoto</i>	229
Rule-based Approach to Korean Morphological Disambiguation Supported by Statistical Method <i>Min-Jung Kim, Hyuk-Chul Kwon and Ae-Sun Yoon</i>	237
Argument Control and Mapping Theory: Evidence from the HO Construction in Taiwanese <i>Jiun-Shiung Wu</i>	247
Interrogative Feature Checking in Japanese and Korean <i>Keiko Yoshida and Tomoyuki Yoshida</i>	257
Temporal/Locative WHs and Null-P Incorporation <i>Tien-Hsin Hsin</i>	267
A Computational Expression of Initial Binary Feet and Surface Ternary Feet in Metrical Theory <i>Seiichiro Inaba</i>	277
A Mandarin Voice Organizer Based on a Template-Matching Speech Recongizer <i>Jhing-Fa Wang, Jyh-Shing Shyuu and Chung-Hsien Wu</i>	289
A Phonological Study on Japanese Discourse Markers <i>Masahito Kawamori, Akira Shimazu and Takeshi Kawabata</i>	297
Contrastive Focus and Exempted Anaphor Caki in Korean <i>Chan Chung</i>	307
Legitimate Termination of Nonlocal Features in HPSG <i>Hywel Evans</i>	317
Argument Structure and Unaccusativity in the Constraint-based Lexicon <i>Byong-Rae Ryu</i>	327
Fuzzy Statistics and Computation on the Lexical Semantics: How Much Do You Think? and How Many? <i>Berlin Wu and Ching-min Sun</i>	337
Epistemic Model and Three-valued Interpretation <i>Hisashi Komatsu</i>	347

Extracting the Topics from Texts Based on Situations <i>Ma Zhiyi, Zhan Xuegong and Yao Tianshun</i>	357
Principle-based Parsing for Chinese <i>Charles Yang and Robert Berwick</i>	363
Estimating Point-of-View-Based Similarity Using POV Reinforcement & Similarity Propagation <i>Kenji Nagamatsu and Hidehiko Tanaka</i>	373
Fast Statistical Grammar Induction <i>Wide Hogenhout and Yuji Matsumoto</i>	383
On the Structure of the So-called Head Internal Relative Construction <i>Daeho Chung</i>	393
Internally Headed Relative Clause Constructions in Korean <i>Yong-Beom Kim</i>	403
Coronal Unmarkedness and Clusters in Correspondence Theory <i>Shinsook Lee and Mi-Hui Cho</i>	415
Spanish Lexical Acquisition via Morpho-Semantic Constructive Derivational Morphology <i>Margarita González</i>	425
Danger of Partial Universality: In Two Uses of In-adverbials <i>Jae-Hak Yoon</i>	439
Learning to Speak Like Girls and Boys: A Developmental Study in Gender and Narrative Style <i>Shannon McEwen</i>	449
Felicity Condition of Korean and English Contrastive Topic <i>Hae-Kyung Wee</i>	459
On the Irregular Verbs in Korean <i>Sechang Lee</i>	469
An Optimality Theoretic Account of Nasal Assimilation in English <i>Seok-keun Kang</i>	479

Coronal Specification and Licensing in Place Assimilation <i>Seung-Hoon Shin</i>	489
Attract F, Accusative Case-checking and the Position of the Subject in French Stylistic Inversion with Causative and Perception Verbs <i>Maarten de Wind</i>	501
Author Index	511
Programme Committee	

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For the **Language Education and
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Kyung Hee University

1 Hoeki-Dong, Dongdaemoon-gu

Seoul 130-701,

Korea

Foreword

This conference, PACLIC 11, is the second conference to be convened after the present name 'Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation' was inaugurated in Kyoto in 1994, with the original name 'Korea-Japan Joint Conference on Formal Linguistics' being replaced. The first one was held in Hong Kong last year, and all of us witnessed its success, with high academic standards in warm and friendly interactions. It still retained our traditional "family-like" atmosphere then, despite the fact that PACLIC 10 introduced the process of referee reviewing for the first time in our conference history. Now PACLIC 11 is not a small-size scholarly gathering any more; more than ninety abstracts were submitted to the Program Committee of PACLIC 11 from all over the world. If we had insisted on preserving the small-size tradition as we did in PACLIC 10 in Hong Kong last year, we should have been forced to turn down two thirds of the abstracts. Rather, the Program Committee opted for a little larger conference and decided to accept fifty-seven abstracts. We seem to be in a position where we cannot claim that Small Is Beautiful any longer.

It has turned out that papers dealing with theoretical and computational linguistics are evenly distributed. The topics of the papers comprise nearly all fields of linguistic studies ranging from phonology through syntax and semantics to computational lexicography and machine translation. It is still true that the majority of participants come from Pacific Asia regions: 13 from Japan, 11 from areas where the Chinese language is spoken, and 20 from Korea, but our horizon is surely being extended. Eleven paper presenters come from non-Pacific Asian areas including North and Central America, Germany, France, Netherlands, Portugal, and Denmark.

The 21st century is just around the corner. It is predicted that more and more interactions not only among different fields of language studies, but among various human sciences will be sought after, as it is felt that the tendency of specialization and compartmentalization has gone too far during the 20th century. This leads us to realize that the value of harmony, which our PACLIC has pursued as a scholarly goal, will be more and more meaningful. I hope that the forum for both theoretical and computational linguistics which our Pacific Asia Conference has tried to develop will promote harmonious links between East and West and between New and Old, as well as between theory and practice. In this connection, the Chomskyan chauvinism, which is still persisting to some extent even today, will eventually become a by-gone fashion among linguists, giving way to healthier and more diversified interactions among various theoretical traditions. PACLIC intends to contribute to such a change. We expect that our keynote speaker Professor Carl Pollard will deal with this issue in his discussion of "Recent Developments of Constraint-Based Grammar," indicating new directions of linguistic studies in the 21st century.

I take this opportunity to thank Kyung Hee University for its financial and logistic assistance, which has made it possible to organize and carry out this international conference at the Language Education and Research Institute of Kyung Hee University.

We also thank Language and Information Society of Korea for its philosophical support for this conference. Above all, this conference is in large part the product of the efforts of the Program Committee members who participated in painstaking reviewing processes of the submitted abstracts. I thank all of them for their sacrifice and contribution, especially the Program Committee's cochairmen, Professors Akira Ikeya, Benjamin K. T'sou and Chu-Ren Huang. My heart-felt gratitude goes to our colleagues coming from far and near to present their papers. If PACLIC 11 is anything successful, it owes them. I hope that all the participants will experience a rewarding and fruitful time while staying in Seoul for PACLIC 11.

Byung-Soo Park
Conference Chair