

Interactive Semantic Analysis of English Paragraphs

- Yorick Wilks -

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

\*\*COMPUTATIONAL \*\*\*LINGUISTICS



C O L I N G

1969



RESEARCH GROUP FOR QUANTITATIVE LINGUISTICS

Address: Fack Stockholm 40, SWEDEN

INTERACTIVE SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH PARAGRAPHS

Yorick Wilks  
1353, N. Fuller  
Hollywood  
California 90046  
U. S. A.

Abstract.

This paper describes the use of an on-line system to do word-sense ambiguity resolution and content analysis of English text paragraphs, using a system of semantic analysis programmed in Q32 LISP 1.5. The system of semantic analysis comprised dictionary codings for the text words, coded forms of permitted message, and rules producing message forms in combination on the basis of a criterion of semantic closeness. All these can be expressed within a single system of rules of phrase-structure form. In certain circumstances the system is able to enlarge its own dictionary in a real-time mode on the basis of information gained from the actual texts analysed. An interpretation of the system in terms of "meaningfulness" is suggested.

Key words and phrases: semantics, language analysis, interpretation, template. CR Categories: 3.36, 3.62, 3.63.

Acknowledgements.

This work has been supported by grants from H.M. Government Office of Scientific and Technical Information and A.F.O.S.R. (O.A.R.), Washington D.C., U.S.A., administered by the Trustees of the Cambridge Language Research Unit; and also by grant AFOSR F44620 - 67 - C0046 from A.F.O.S.R., monitored by Mrs. Rowena Swanson and administered by the Institute for Formal Studies, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. The computation was done on the Q32 time-shared on-line system at Systems Development Corporation, Santa Monica, California, U.S.A.