

Preprint No. 35

Classification: IR 1.1

A Rapidly Extensible Language System

(Rel English)

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

*** * COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS * * * ***



C O L I N G

1969



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REL: A RAPIDLY EXTENSIBLE LANGUAGE SYSTEM

II. REL ENGLISH

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June 1969

This work was supported by grants from the National
Institutes of Health and the Carnegie Corporation

Table of Contents

Abstract

I REL English in terms of modern linguistics

The REL dialect and idiolects

REL English as a formal language

Ambiguities

Nature of restrictions

Organization of the REL English grammar

II REL data structures

Structural power of language and structural power
of data organization

Ring structure of REL English data bases

Features and their functions

III Building of linguistic structures

Name modification

Relation modification

The verb

Clause processing

Quantifiers

Conjunctions

IV A few inclusive examples

Abstract

REL, a Rapidly Extensible Language System, is an integrated information system designed to facilitate conversational access to a computer. It permits the use of large data bases by means of highly idiosyncratic languages. One of these languages is a subset of natural English with an extensive capability for defining new concepts and structures. REL English is a formal language, essentially unrestricted in surface structure and restricted by the structural limitations of the memory forms. The structural power of this language is matched by the extremely flexible organization of data into interrelated rings. The REL grammar consists of rewrite rules and associated semantic transformations, and includes general rewrite and transformational rules. A number of aspects of the grammar are discussed in detail, including features, name and relation modification, verbs, subordinate clauses, time modification, quantifiers and conjunctions.