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Proceedings of the workshop on

Multi-word-expressions in a multilingual context

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This volume contains the ten papers accepted for presentation at Multi-word-expressions in a multilingual context, an EACL 2006 workshop held on April 3rd, 2006, preceding the 11th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics, taking place in Trento, Italy.

For many years, interest in the natural language processing community of the problems that multiword-expressions (MWE) posed was focussed mainly on English. Recently, for example at the ACL2004 workshop on multiword expressions, attention has begun to expand to other languages such as Japanese, Russian, Basque and Turkish. This necessitates a re-evaluation of earlier rule-based, statistical and hybrid techniques for MWE identification and classification. In English, MWE types such as phrasal verbs, noun phrases, proper names, and true non-compositional idioms, are considered. However, in other languages MWE types can be represented as single words, e.g. phrasal verbs in English are generally expressed as verbs with a prefix in Russian. At the same time, research on MWEs for languages other than English is confronted with new problems, such as the number of word forms per lemma or free word order. In the call for papers for this workshop, we invited submissions incorporating the requirements from different areas such as translation, language engineering and those studying computational techniques for the processing of MWE of language learners and how all these requirements differ across languages. This had a deliberately wide scope to enable cross-disciplinary contact between descriptive, contrastive, educational and computational approaches. Of the 23 papers submitted, we accepted 10 for presentation. Each submission was reviewed by at least two members of the programme committee, who gave detailed comments to the authors. The papers presented here deal with a number of themes, from translation, extraction of MWEs, language description and modelling of dictionaries and lexicons.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of members of the programme committee and the additional reviewer for performing their task within such a tight schedule. We also acknowledge the support of UK-EPSRC project EP/C004574/1 “Automated Semantic Assistance for Translators (ASSIST)”. Finally, we wish to thank the organisers of the main conference, in particular the conference workshop co-chairs, Maarten de Rijke and Caroline Sporleder.

Paul Rayson
Serge Sharoff
Svenja Adolphs

February 2006
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WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

MORNING:

9.00 Arrivals and welcome
   Workshop co-chairs
9.30 Named Entities Translation Based on Comparable Corpora
   Iñaki Alegria, Nerea Ezeiza, and Izaskun Fernandez
10.00 Grouping Multi-word Expressions According to Part-Of-Speech in Statistical
      Machine Translation
      Patrik Lambert and Rafael Banchs
10.30 COFFEE BREAK
11.00 Automatic Extraction of Chinese Multiword Expressions with a Statistical
      Tool
      Scott S.L. Piao, Guangfan Sun, Paul Rayson, and Qi Yuan
11.30 Chunking Japanese Compound Functional Expressions by Machine Learning
      Masatoshi Tsuchiya, Takao Shime, Toshihiro Takagi, Takehito Utsuro,
      Kiyotaka Uchimoto, Suguru Matsuyoshi, Satoshi Sato and Seiichi
      Nakagawa
12.00 Identifying idiomatic expressions using automatic word-alignment
      Begoña Villada Moirón and Jörg Tiedemann

LUNCH BREAK:

12.30 - 14.30

AFTERNOON:

14.30 Collocation Extraction: Needs, Feeds and Results of an Extraction System for
       German
       Julia Ritz
15.00 Extending corpus-based identification of light verb constructions using a
       supervised learning framework
       Yee Fan Tan, Min-Yen Kan and Hang Cui
15.30 Multi-word verbs in a flective language: the case of Estonian
       Heiki-Jaan Kaalep and Kadri Muischnek
16.00 COFFEE BREAK
16.30 Modeling Monolingual and Bilingual Collocation Dictionaries in Description
       Logics
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17.00 Multiword Units in an MT Lexicon
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