

Discussion: How to talk about DELPH-IN research to the rest of the NLP world

DELPH-IN Summit

Olomouc

July 1, 2024

Emily M. Bender

Who do we want to talk to?

Why (to what ends)? In what contexts/formats?

- Grant review panels / to get grants / in written grant proposals + interview
- Customers of library / to get them interested in the technology / f2f conversation
- Students (in NLP) / broaden understanding of compiling / in classes
- CS students / appreciate ambiguity in language / in classes
- AI people / existence proof of large grammars of languages /
- Industry people / show possibility of richer more reliable semantics, with relative likelihood
- Reviewers / get a paper accepted / paper

What typically gets in the way?

What do we imagine might get in the way?

- Perception that this is old-fashioned, not relevant for current jobs
- Time to market
- “This doesn’t scale”
- Lack of evidence that the richness of the output is usable
- Lack of multilinguality
- Sustainability of DELPH-IN (community, resources)
- Software: research systems, need to be made more robust/better UI
- High start-up costs (getting software going)
- Sentence-by-sentence processing (lack of discourse context)

What has worked well in the past?

Talking points

- Affordability argument: small companies can't afford GPT4o etc.
- Predicability, reliability
- Transparency/explainability
- “The theory is what scales”: the more time you put into a grammar, the more theoretically valid it is, the easier it should be to build another one
- Dynamic treebanking, systematicity of annotation
- Multilinguality: more PR to Grammar Matrix
- Longevity: of tools
- Data efficient NLP

What other strategies might we use?

- Web page about shared tasks with DELPH-IN tools (update)
- Develop and run shared tasks (e.g. MRP)
- Present our resources as an alternative to UD
- Packaging software for easier start-up
- Connect DELPH-IN resources to other ones (like PropBank/WikiData connection)
- Synthetic data (e.g. Kuhnle's ShapeWorld: grounded synthetic data)
- Platform for evaluation of groundedness/faithfulness of LLM output
- Large grants (e.g. ERC consolidator grants) — join together to fund DELPH-IN work; even more joint publications

Who else should we talk to?

- Automatic proofs community
- AI outside of NLP (carefully selected)
- Other linguists
- AMR/UMR people, UD people
- People interested in proper inference examples