
Introduction

Philipp Koehn

5 September 2017



Administrativa



- Class web site: <http://www.mt-class.org/jhu/>
- Graduate section: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:45, Mergenthaler 111
Undergraduate section: TBA
- Instructor: Philipp Koehn
- TA: Shuoyang Ding
- Grading
 - five programming assignments (12% each)
 - final project (30%)
 - in-class presentation: language in ten minutes (10%)

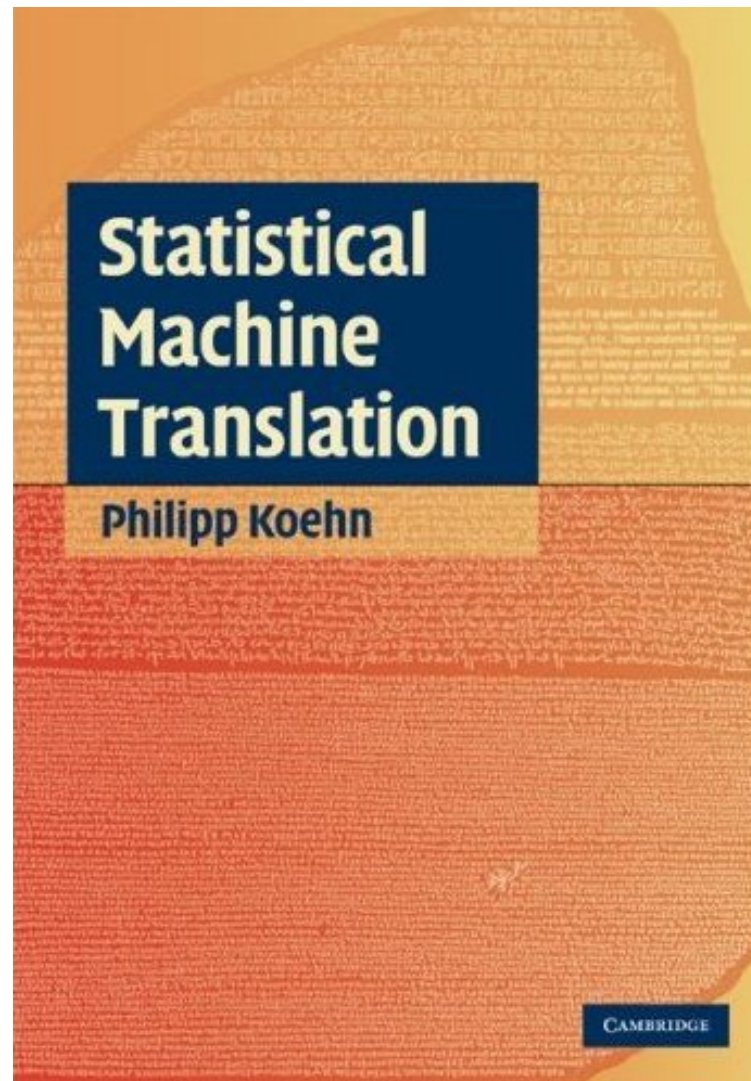
Why Take This Class?



2

- Close look at an **artificial intelligence** problem
- Practical introduction to **natural language processing**
- Introduction to **deep learning** for structured prediction

Textbook



some history

Warren Weaver on translation
as code breaking (1947):

*When I look at an article in Russian, I say:
"This is really written in English,
but it has been coded in some strange symbols.
I will now proceed to decode".*



Early Efforts and Disappointment

- Excited research in 1950s and 1960s

1954

Georgetown experiment
Machine could translate
250 words and
6 grammar rules■



- 1966 ALPAC report:
 - only \$20 million spent on translation in the US per year
 - no point in machine translation

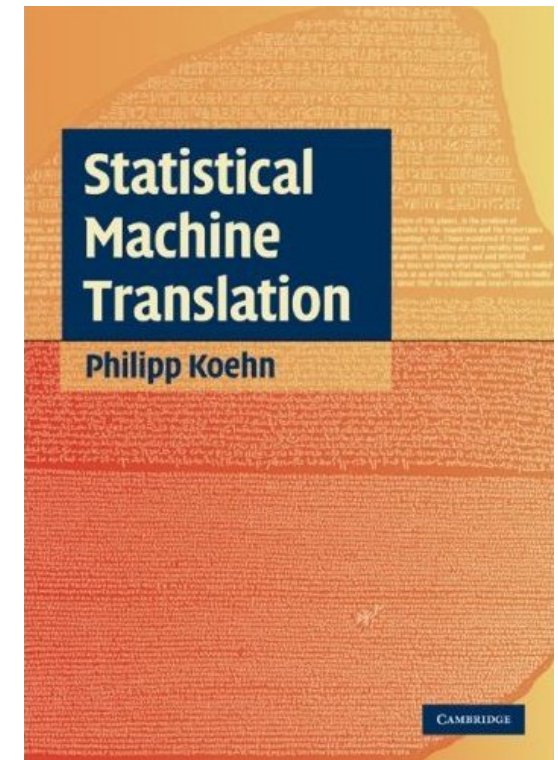
- Rule-based systems
 - build dictionaries
 - write transformation rules
 - refine, refine, refine
- Météo system for weather forecasts (1976)
- Systran (1968), Logos and Metal (1980s)

```
"have" :=  
  
if  
    subject (animate)  
    and object (owned-by-subject)  
then  
    translate to "kade... aahe"  
if  
    subject (animate)  
    and object (kinship-with-subject)  
then  
    translate to "laa... aahe"  
if  
    subject (inanimate)  
then  
    translate to "madhye...  
aahe"
```

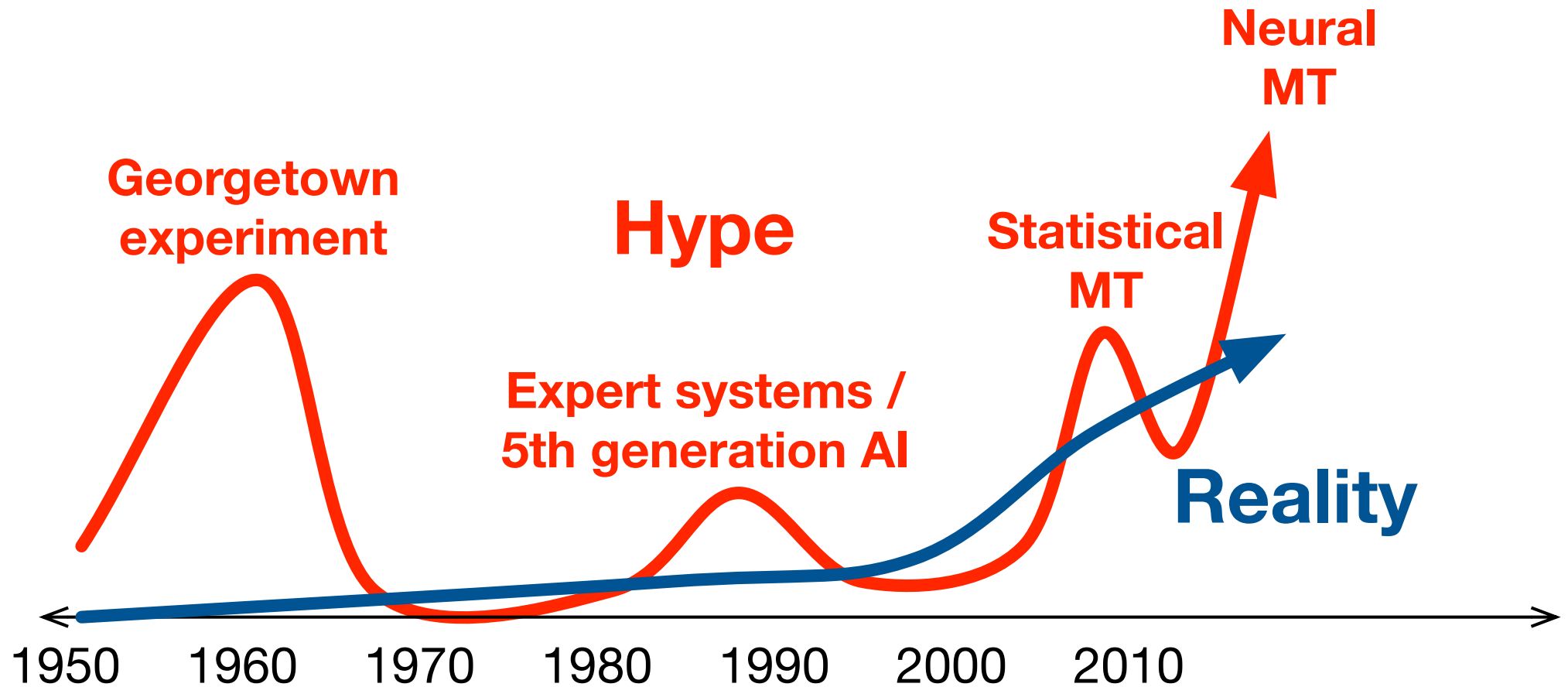

Statistical Machine Translation



- 1980s: IBM
- 1990s: increased research
- Mid 2000s: Phrase-Based MT (Moses, Google)
- Around 2010: commercial viability
- Since mid 2010s: neural network models



Hype





how good is machine translation?

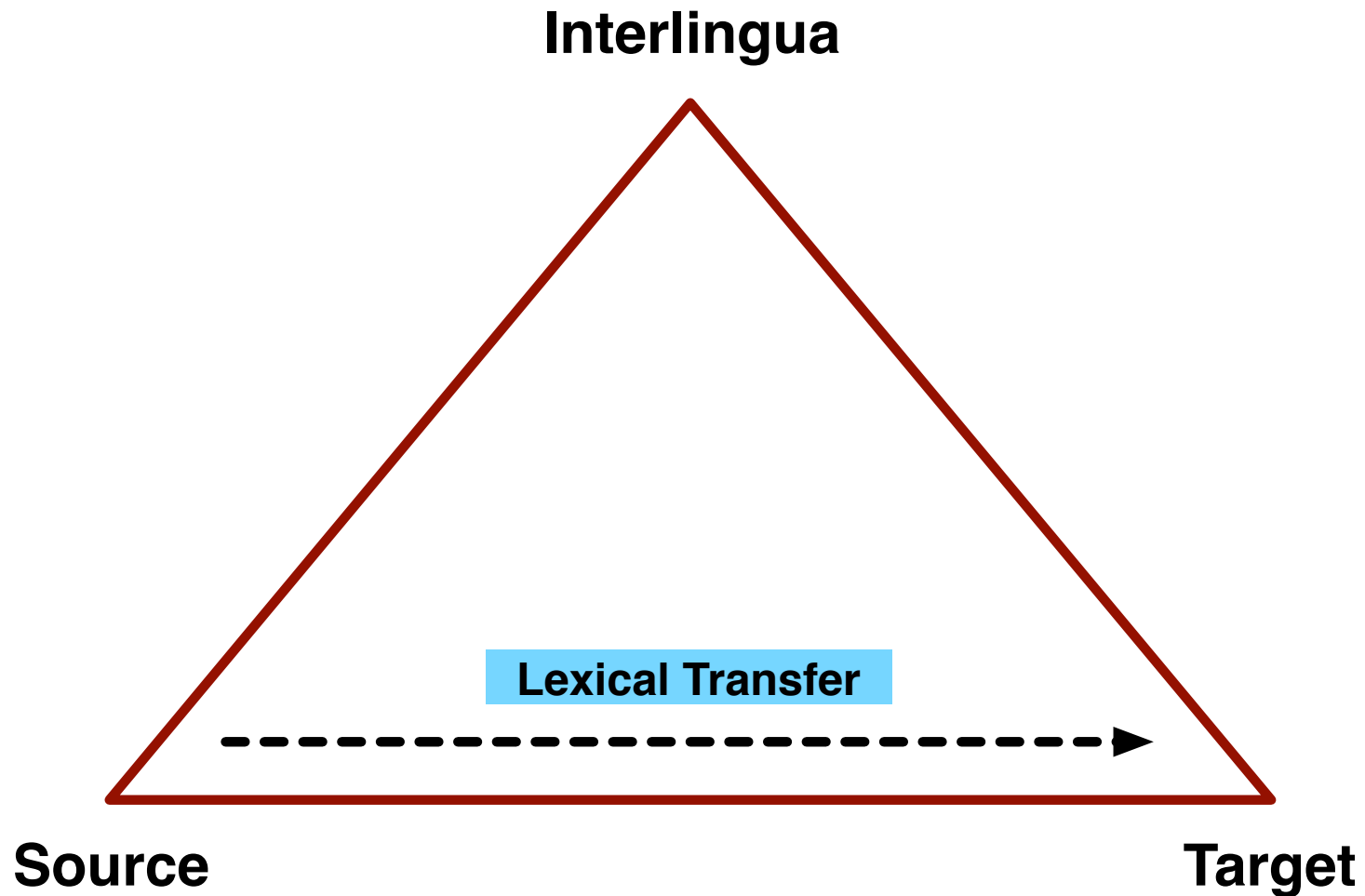
记者从环保部了解到,《水十条》要求今年年底前直辖市、省会城市、计划单列市建成区基本解决黑臭水体。截至目前,全国224个地级及以上城市共排查确认黑臭水体2082个,其中34.9%完成整治,28.4%正在整治,22.8%正在开展项目前期。

Reporters learned from the Ministry of Environmental Protection, "Water 10" requirements before the end of this year before the municipality, the provincial capital city, plans to build a separate city to solve the basic black and black water. Up to now, the country's 224 prefecture-level and above cities were identified to confirm the black and white water 2082, of which 34.9% to complete the renovation, 28.4% is remediation, 22.8% is carrying out the project early.

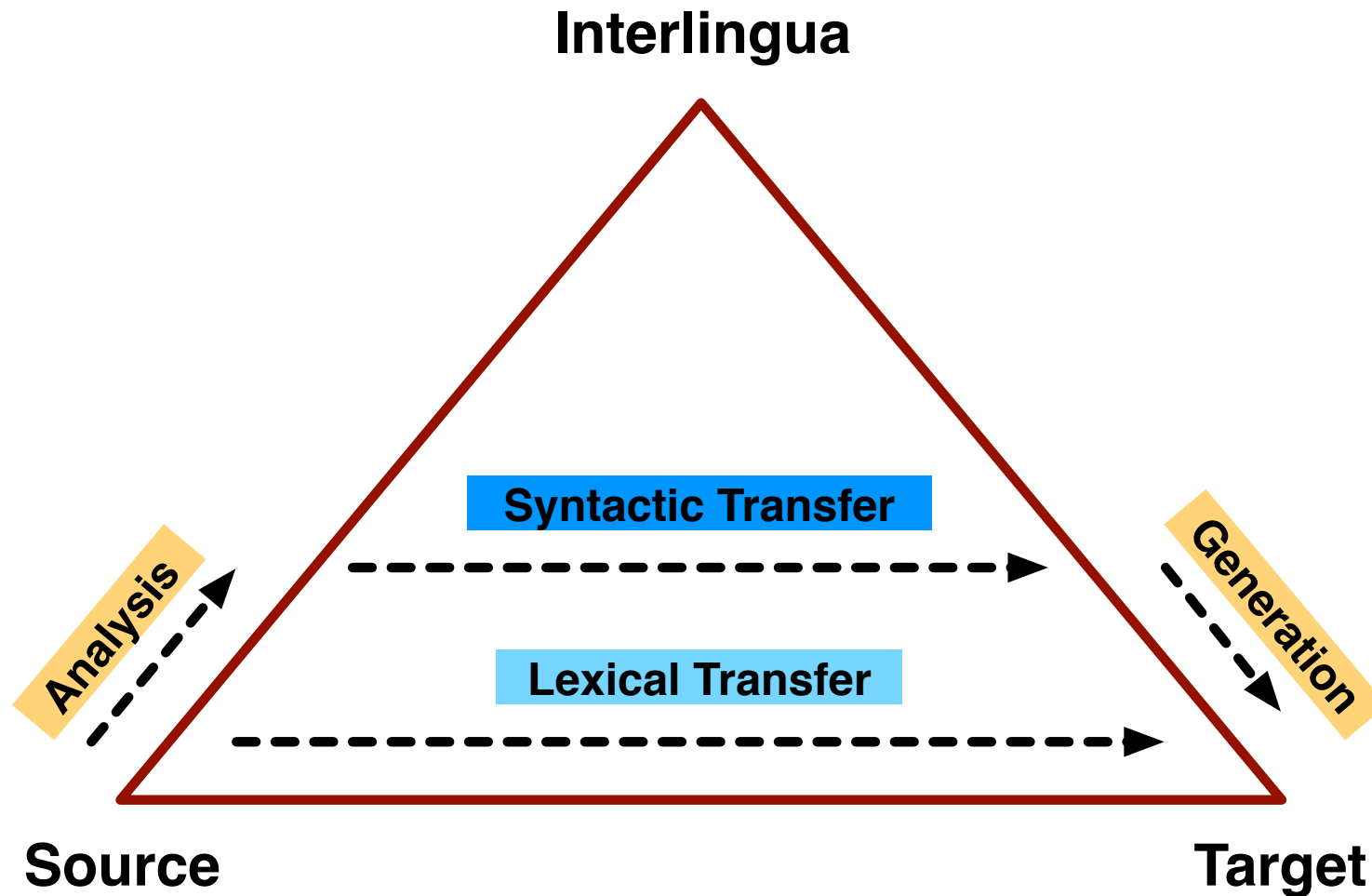
A l'orée de ce débat télévisé inédit dans l'histoire de la Ve République, on attendait une forme de «Tous sur Macron» mais c'est la candidate du Front national qui s'est retrouvée au cœur des premières attaques de ses quatre adversaires d'un soir, favorisées par le premier thème abordé, les questions de société et donc de sécurité, d'immigration et de laïcité.

At the beginning of this televised debate, which was unheard of in the history of the Fifth Republic, a "Tous sur Macron" was expected, but it was the candidate of the National Front who found itself at the heart of the first attacks of its four Opponents of one evening, favored by the first theme tackled, the issues of society and thus security, immigration and secularism.

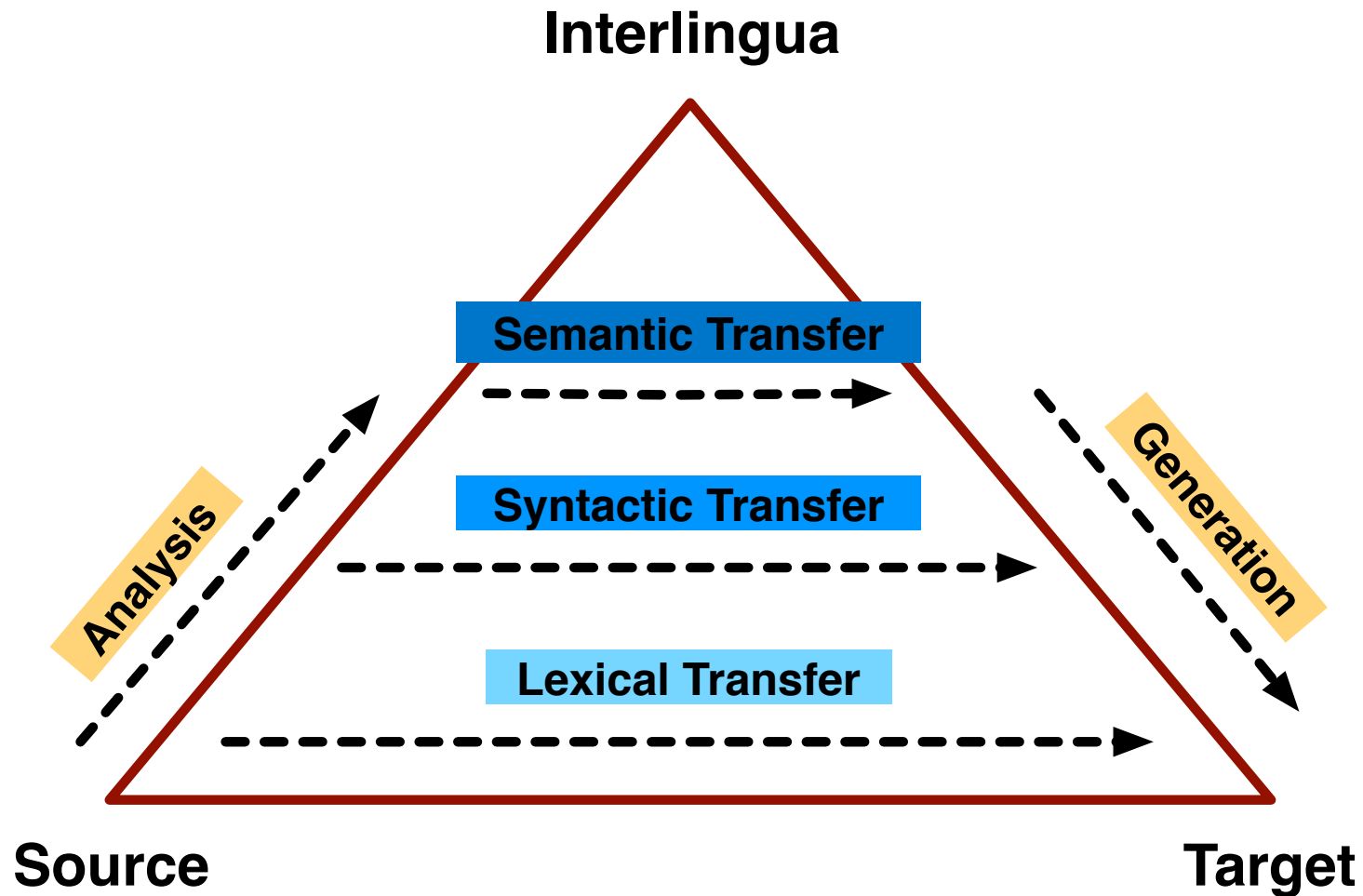
A Clear Plan



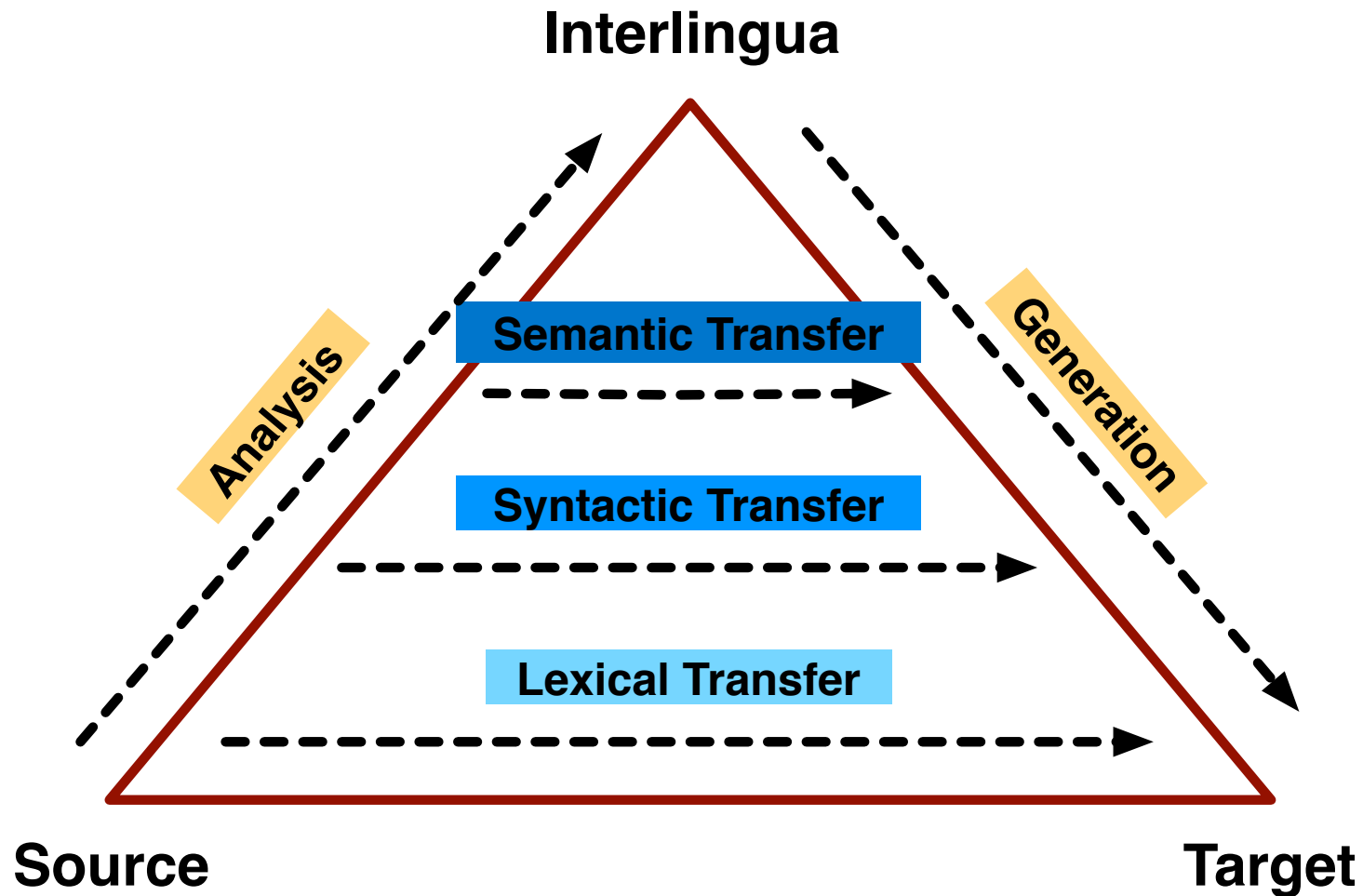
A Clear Plan

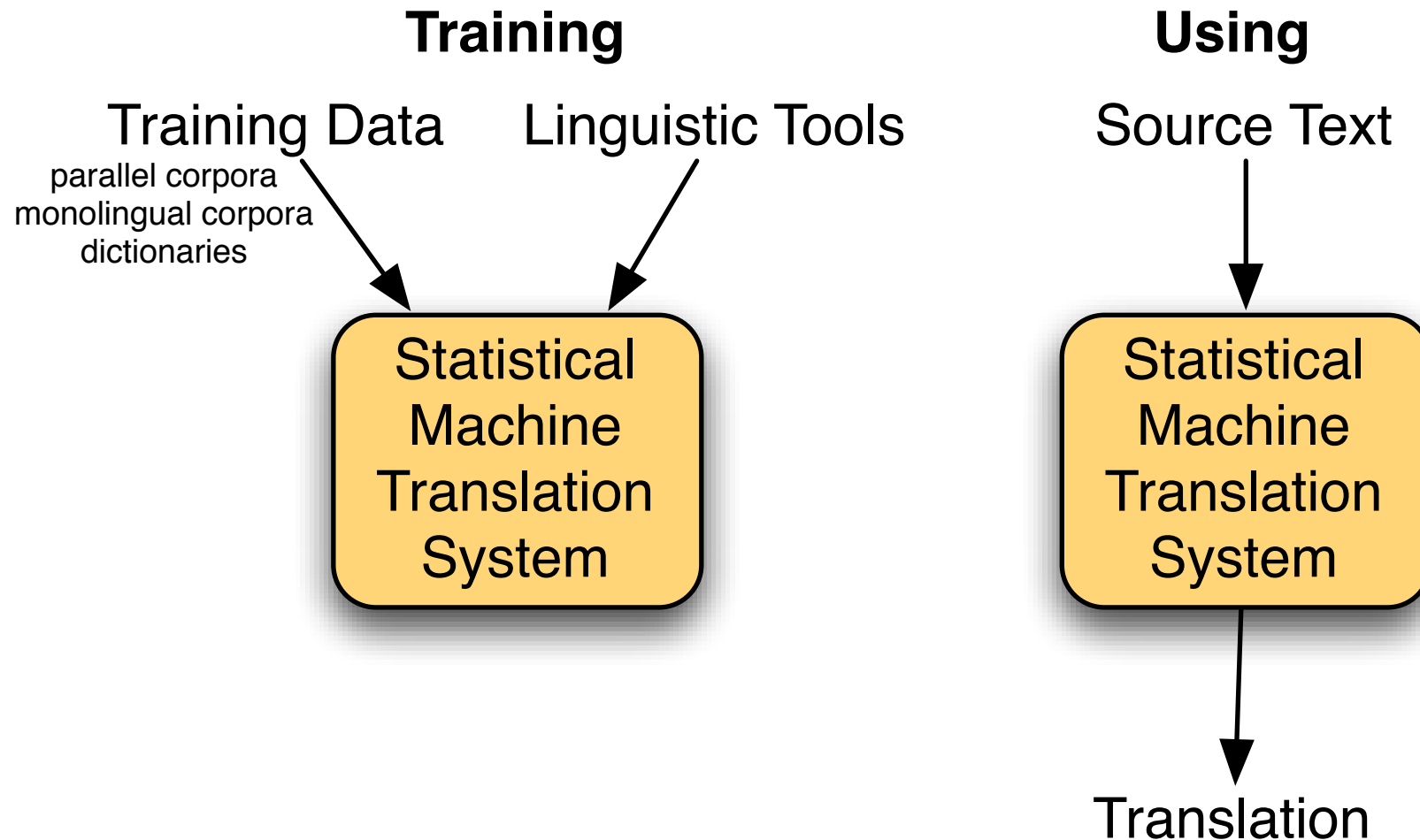


A Clear Plan



A Clear Plan







why is that a good plan?

Word Translation Problems

- Words are ambiguous

He deposited money in a **bank** account
with a high **interest** rate.

Sitting on the **bank** of the Mississippi,
a passing ship piqued his **interest**.

- How do we find the right meaning, and thus translation?
- Context should be helpful

Syntactic Translation Problems

- Languages have different sentence structure

| | | | |
|------|-----------|------|------------|
| das | behaupten | sie | wenigstens |
| this | claim | they | at least |
| the | | she | |

- Convert from object-verb-subject (OVS) to subject-verb-object (SVO)
- Ambiguities can be resolved through syntactic analysis
 - the meaning **the** of **das** not possible (not a noun phrase)
 - the meaning **she** of **sie** not possible (subject-verb agreement)

- Pronominal anaphora

I saw the movie and **it** is good.

- How to translate **it** into German (or French)?
 - **it** refers to **movie**
 - **movie** translates to **Film**
 - **Film** has masculine gender
 - ergo: **it** must be translated into masculine pronoun **er**
- We are not handling this very well [Le Nagard and Koehn, 2010]

- Coreference

Whenever I visit my uncle and his daughters,
I can't decide who is my favorite **cousin**.

- How to translate **cousin** into German? Male or female?
- Complex inference required

- Discourse

Since you brought it up, I do not agree with you.

Since you brought it up, we have been working on it.

- How to translated *since*? Temporal or conditional?
- Analysis of discourse structure — a hard problem

- What is the best translation?

Sicherheit → security

Sicherheit → safety

Sicherheit → certainty

- What is the best translation?

Sicherheit → security 14,516

Sicherheit → safety 10,015

Sicherheit → certainty 334

- Counts in European Parliament corpus

- What is the best translation?

Sicherheit → security 14,516

Sicherheit → safety 10,015

Sicherheit → certainty 334

- Phrasal rules

Sicherheitspolitik → security policy 1580

Sicherheitspolitik → safety policy 13

Sicherheitspolitik → certainty policy 0

Lebensmittelsicherheit → food security 51

Lebensmittelsicherheit → food safety 1084

Lebensmittelsicherheit → food certainty 0

Rechtssicherheit → legal security 156

Rechtssicherheit → legal safety 5

Rechtssicherheit → legal certainty 723

- What is most fluent?

a problem for translation

a problem of translation

a problem in translation

- What is most fluent?

a problem for translation 13,000

a problem of translation 61,600

a problem in translation 81,700

- Hits on Google

- What is most fluent?

a problem for translation 13,000

a problem of translation 61,600

a problem in translation 81,700

a translation problem 235,000

- What is most fluent?

police disrupted the demonstration

police broke up the demonstration

police dispersed the demonstration

police ended the demonstration

police dissolved the demonstration

police stopped the demonstration

police suppressed the demonstration

police shut down the demonstration

- What is most fluent?

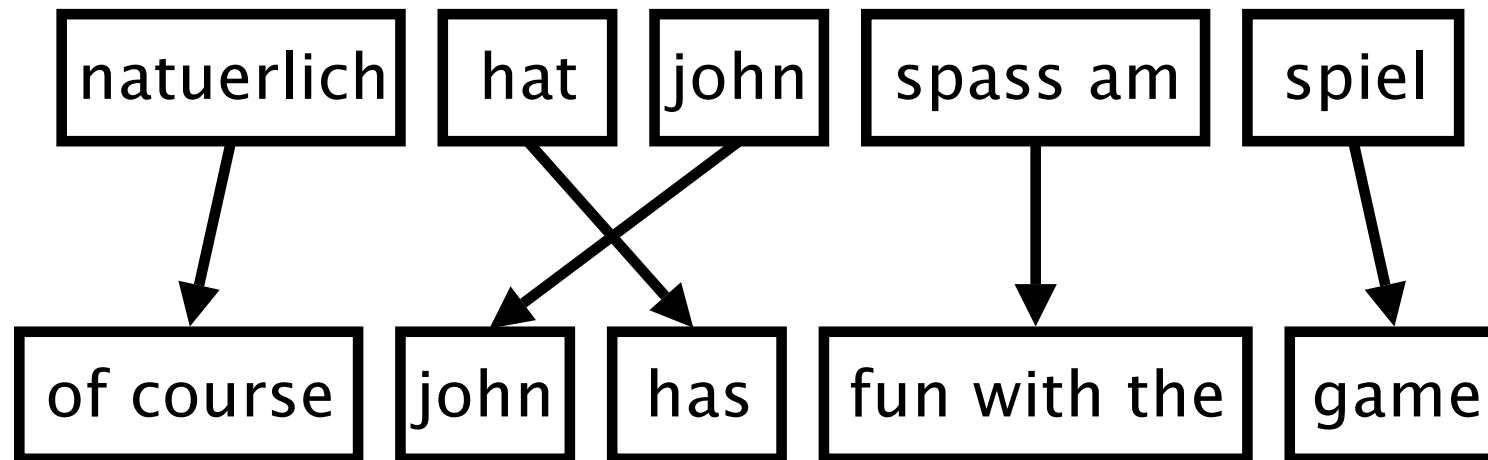
police disrupted the demonstration 2,140
police broke up the demonstration 66,600
police dispersed the demonstration 25,800
police ended the demonstration 762
police dissolved the demonstration 2,030
police stopped the demonstration 722,000
police suppressed the demonstration 1,400
police shut down the demonstration 2,040

where are we now?

Word Alignment

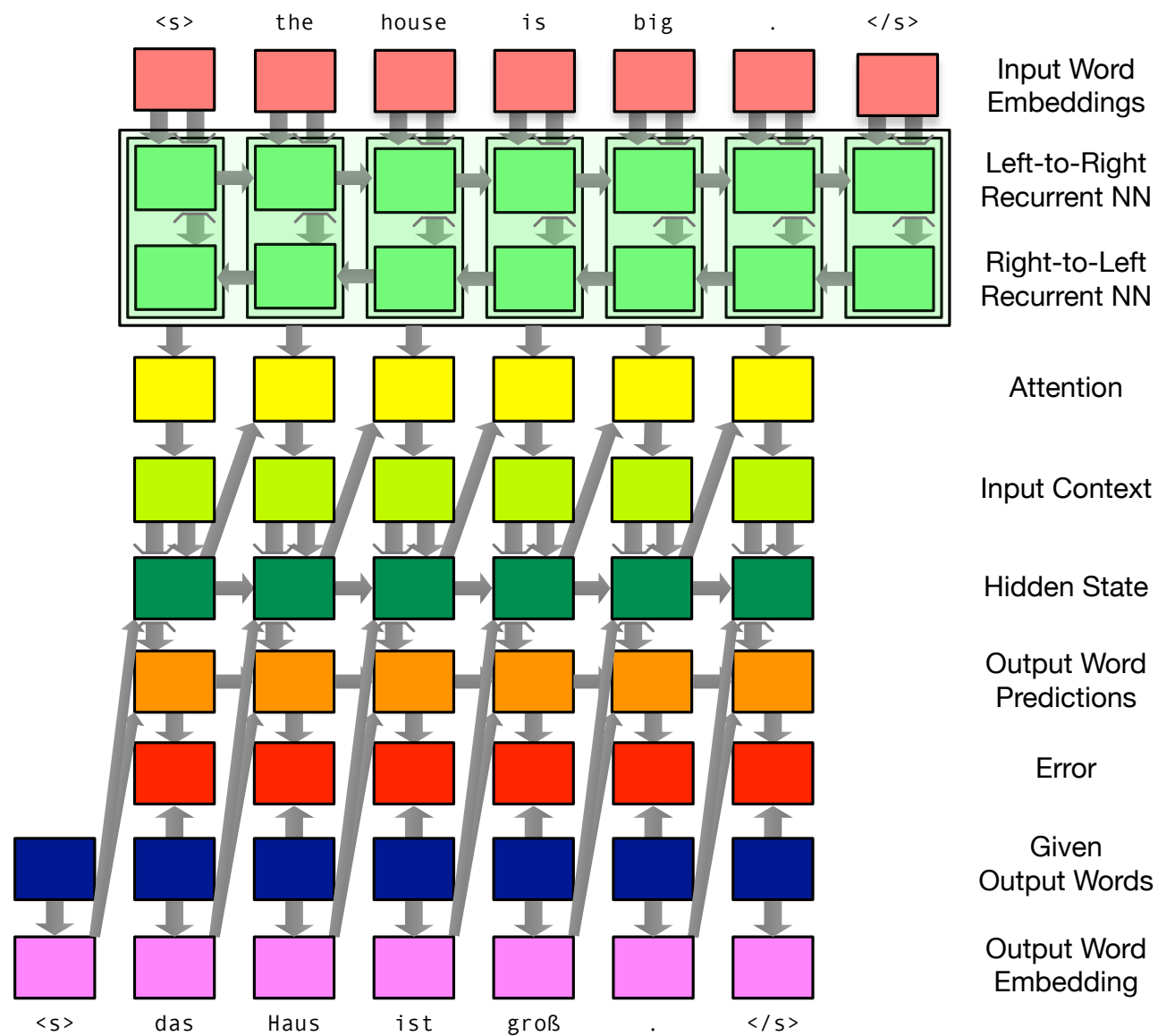
| | michael | geht | davon | aus | , | dass | er | im | haus | bleibt |
|---------|---------|------|-------|-----|---|------|----|----|------|--------|
| michael | | | | | | | | | | |
| assumes | | | | | | | | | | |
| that | | | | | | | | | | |
| he | | | | | | | | | | |
| will | | | | | | | | | | |
| stay | | | | | | | | | | |
| in | | | | | | | | | | |
| the | | | | | | | | | | |
| house | | | | | | | | | | |

Phrase-Based Model

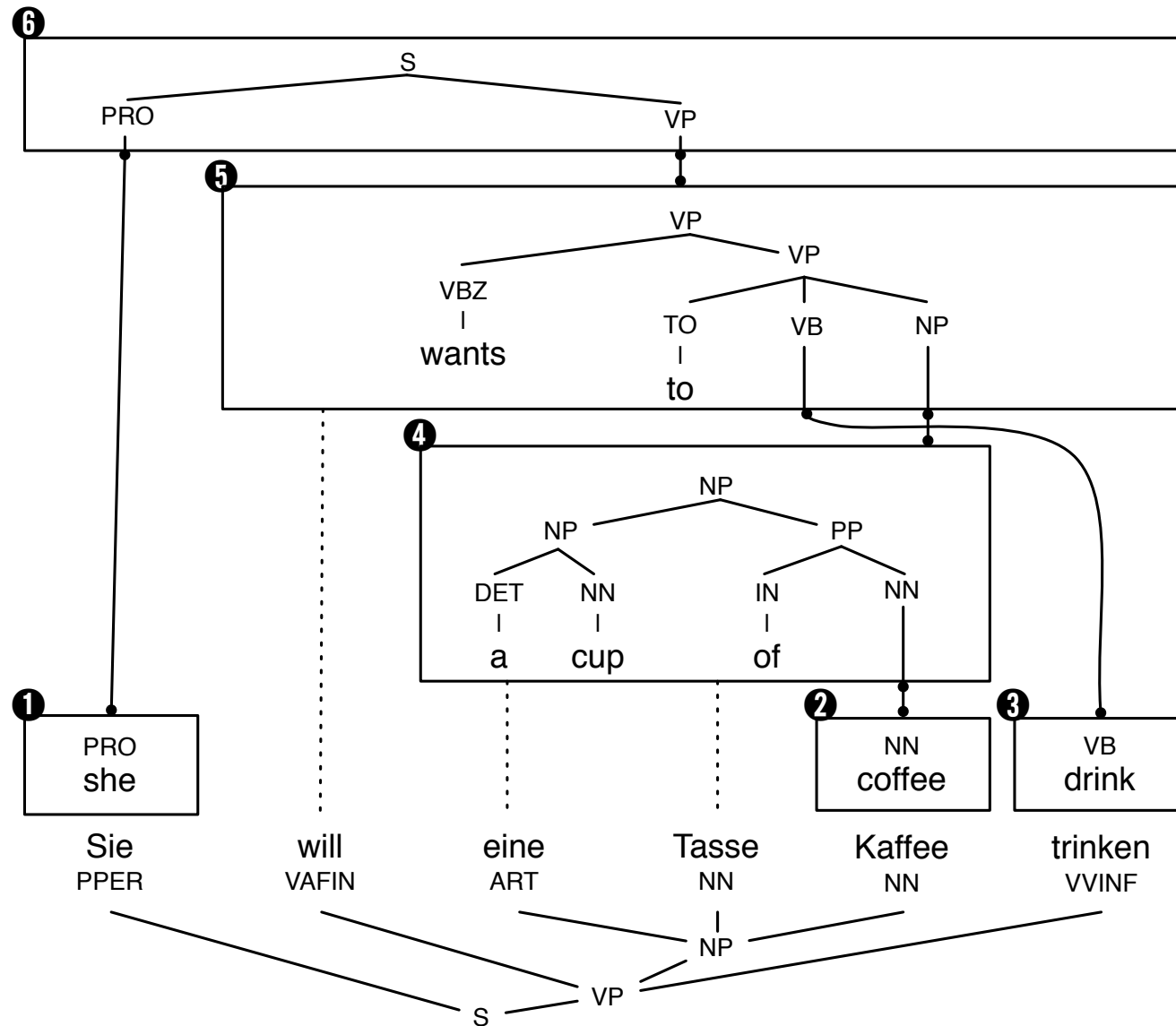


- Foreign input is segmented in phrases
- Each phrase is translated into English
- Phrases are reordered
- Workhorse of today's statistical machine translation

Neural Model



Syntax-Based Translation



- Abstract meaning representation [Knight et al., ongoing]

```
(w / want-01
  :agent (b / boy)
  :theme (l / love
    :agent (g / girl)
    :patient b))
```

- Generalizes over equivalent syntactic constructs (e.g., active and passive)
- Defines semantic relationships
 - semantic roles
 - co-reference
 - discourse relations
- In a very preliminary stage

what is it good for?

what is it good *enough* for?

Why Machine Translation?

Assimilation — reader initiates translation, wants to know content

- user is tolerant of inferior quality
- focus of majority of research (GALE program, etc.)■

Communication — participants don't speak same language, rely on translation

- users can ask questions, when something is unclear
- chat room translations, hand-held devices
- often combined with speech recognition, IWSLT campaign■

Dissemination — publisher wants to make content available in other languages

- high demands for quality
- currently almost exclusively done by human translators

Problem: No Single Right Answer

这个 机场 的 安全 工作 由 以色列 方面 负责 .

Israeli officials are responsible for airport security.

Israel is in charge of the security at this airport.

The security work for this airport is the responsibility of the Israel government.

Israeli side was in charge of the security of this airport.

Israel is responsible for the airport's security.

Israel is responsible for safety work at this airport.

Israel presides over the security of the airport.

Israel took charge of the airport security.

The safety of this airport is taken charge of by Israel.

This airport's security is the responsibility of the Israeli security officials.

| HTER | assessment |
|------|-------------|
| 0% | |
| 10% | publishable |
| 20% | editable |
| 30% | gistable |
| 40% | triagable |
| 50% | |

(scale developed in preparation of DARPA GALE programme)

Applications

| HTER | assessment | application examples |
|------|-------------|---|
| 0% | publishable | Seamless bridging of language divide |
| 10% | | Automatic publication of official announcements |
| 20% | editable | Increased productivity of human translators |
| 30% | | Access to official publications |
| 40% | gistable | Multi-lingual communication (chat, social networks) |
| 50% | | Information gathering |
| | triagable | Trend spotting |
| | | Identifying relevant documents |

Current State of the Art

| HTER | assessment | language pairs and domains |
|------|------------|----------------------------|
|------|------------|----------------------------|

| | | |
|-----|-------------|--|
| 0% | | |
| | publishable | French-English restricted domain |
| 10% | | French-English technical document localization |
| | editable | French-English news stories |
| 20% | | |
| | | English-German news stories |
| 30% | gistable | English-Czech open domain |
| 40% | triagable | |
| 50% | | |

(informal rough estimates by presenter)

Thank You



questions?