

Dialor'05

Proceedings of the ninth workshop
on the semantics and pragmatics of
dialogue

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Loria

Claire Gardent and Bertrand Gaiffe
Editors

Foreword

Steered by an informal group of researchers, the SEMDIAL Workshops on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue aim at bringing together researchers working on the semantics and pragmatics of dialogues from different perspectives such as artificial intelligence, formal semantics and pragmatics, computational linguistics, and psychology.

As these proceedings clearly show, the initiative has become reality and Di-aLor'05 is indeed a meeting where dialog will be discussed from many distinct perspectives.

Pure linguistics is well represented with in particular, several papers from the formal semantics tradition. Maria Aloni gives an interesting new account of the semantics and pragmatics of imperatives and of their effect on the occurrence of free choice “or” and “any” in imperative sentences; Henk Zeevat considers the issues raised by modals, corrections and attitudes in Discourse Representation Theory and Yafa Al-Raheb presents an extension to Speaker/Hearer representation in DRT. In the phonology field, a paper by Safarova, Muller and Prévot addresses the discourse functions of final rises in French dialogue. And several papers are concerned with empirical issues such as establishing a taxonomy of dialogue acts (Bunt and Girard), classifying dialogue acts in task oriented information seeking dialogues (Geertzen and Girard), analysing belief transfer in information dialogues (Morante and Bunt), classifying errors in human-robot communication based on a web based experiment (Gieselmann and Waibel) or annotating corpora to learn dialogue strategies (Georgila, Lemon and Henderson).

In the areas of Artificial Intelligence and Computational linguistics, the contributions reflect the evolution of the fields with emphasis on multimodality, multi-agent systems, computer aided learning systems and the use of statistical techniques and of ontologies. Thus Sandewall, Lindblom and Husberg report on a multimodal system integrating videos, speech and a robot; Bringert, Cooper, Ljungloef and Ranta present a grammar adapted for multimodal processing and several posters/demos describe multimodal systems (Löckelt and Norbert Pflieger; Kruijff-Korbayová et al.; Manchón, Pérez and Amores) or multimodal annotation tools (Müller). Further afield, Ginzburg and Fernandez discuss the issues arising from modeling multilogue rather than dialogue and two contributions deal with the specific issues arising from dialogues in teaching systems (Slabbers and Knott; Michel and Lehuen). Two further contributions explore the use of machine learning and statistical techniques for classifying dialogue acts (Webb, Hepple and Wilks) and for turn taking modeling (Eliasson). Finally, several papers/posters un-

derline the need/utility of ontologies in dialogue processing (Romanelli, Backer and Alexandersson; Loos and Porzel) and Larsson addresses the question whether current research in dialogue modeling can be viewed as cognitive modeling or more as an engineering task.

Psychology is also present thanks to a contribution by Bard and colleagues exploring the psychological plausibility of various predictions made by the theories of common ground underlying most of dialogue theories.

The three fields (Linguistics, Computational linguistics and AI, psychology) are also represented by each of the three invited speakers namely, Justine CASSELL (Northwestern University, USA) who will talk about the verbal and non verbal behaviour of virtual agents; Gerhard JAEGER (University of Bielefeld, Germany) who will present a game theoretic account of implicatures in dialog and Arthur GRAESSER, (University of Memphis, USA) whose talk on AutoTutor lies at the intersection of discourse processing, cognitive science, computational linguistics and the learning sciences.

Following on MunDial'97 (Munich), Twendial'98 (Twente), Amstelogue'99 (Amsterdam), Gotalog'00 (Gothenburg), Bidialog'01 (Bielefeld), Edilog'02 (Edinburgh), Diabruck 2003 (Saarbruecken) and Catalog'04 (Barcelona), this year SEMDIAL workshop will be held in Nancy (France). "Dia" is the compulsory dia-log component, Nancy is in Lorraine, hence Dialor'05!

As always, the realisation of such a workshop has depended on the good will, voluntary work and financial support of many individuals and institutions.

I would like to thank the members of the programme committee for their speedy and competent reviews. In alphabetical order : Jan Alexandersson, Ellen Bard, Johan Bos, Francis Corblin, Matthew Crocker, Raquel Fernandez, Jonathan Ginzburg, Rodger Kibble, Alistair Knott, Ivanna Kruijff-Korbayová, Nicolas Maudet, Philippe Muller, Martin Pickering, Manfred Pinkal, Massimo Poesio, Hannes Rieser, Laurent Romary, Laurent Roussarie, Robert van Roy, David Traum, Mats Wirén, Enric Vallduvi and Henk Zeevat.

For their invaluable help concerning all organisational aspects of the conference, I am grateful to Bertrand Gaiffe who took over the role of local organisation chair at a very short notice and at a time where family matters were perhaps more pressing than a conference; to Yannick Parmentier for handling the website; to Armelle Demange for running the workshop administration and to Mathieu Quignard, Eric Kow, Jean-Marie Pierrel, Laurent Romary and Christine Fay-Varnier for accepting to be part of the local organisation committee.

The LORIA is providing the infrastructure (secretarial support, computers, conference rooms, publicity services, etc.) for the conference and I would like to

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Claire Gardent
Dialor'05 Programme chair

Programme commitee

Claire Gardent (chair)

Jan Alexandersson	Ellen Bard	Johan Bos	Francis Corblin
Matthew Crocker	Raquel Fernandez	Jonathan Ginzburg	Rodger Kibble
Alistair Knott	Ivana Kruijff-Korabayova	Nicolas Maudet	Philippe Muller
Martin Pickering	Manfred Pinkal	Massimo Poesio	Hannes Rieser
Laurent Romary	Laurent Roussarie	Susanne Salmon-Alt	Robert Van Rooy
David Traum	Mats Wirén	Enric Vallduví	Henk Zeevat

Invited speakers

Justine CASSELL	Northwestern University (USA)
Gerhard JAEGER	University of Bielefeld (Germany)
Arthur GRAESSER	University of Memphis (USA)

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