David Rich
Research Methods
Seminar Review #2

Katy McKinney-Bock
"Exploring Word Embeddings"
10/9/2019

I.   Presentation Style

Her presentation style was pretty good. She was clearly competent in the subject matter. When she did deep dives into how features were extracted from language, such as counts and word distance, her explanation were very clear. But if I had an issue, it would be that there were a few times in which I felt that her presentation was created either for a longer or more advanced talk. There was quite a bit of acronym overload, where she moved to slide, briefly mention a concept, algorithm, or software and quickly move on, leaving me feeling a bit lost.

II.   Intellectual Merit

The intellectual merit in natural language processing has been well-documented. The statistical modeling is much the same as other fields that utilize machine learning. In addition, it seemed her aphasia work and produced promising results.

III. Broader Impacts

Natural language processing as a whole has clear far-reaching impacts. Obviously this can be for language processing/prediction tools and her work helping with people with aphasia, but the statistical models developed in NPL can be used in other areas as well. As was shown in her presentation, these have also been in biomedical applications as well.