The Role of FrameNet in Frame Semantics, Construction Grammar, and Natural Language Processing

Kyoko Ohara
Keio University

In this talk I will discuss FrameNet (FN), an online language resource called FrameNet (FN), and similar language resources in other languages such as Spanish, Japanese, German, Swedish and Brazilian Portuguese. FN documents the meanings and usages of contemporary English words in terms of semantic frames, that is, background knowledge structures that speakers can access about various experiences associated with the words. I will focus on two aspects of FN: (1) its relations to the theories of Frame Semantics (e.g., Fillmore & Baker 2015) and Construction Grammar (e.g., Fillmore et al. 2012); and (2) its relevance to cognitive linguists in the age of deep learning.

After characterizing FN as a practical realization of Frame Semantics and Construction Grammar (e.g., Ruppenhoffer et al. 2016, Baker & Fillmore 2004), I will argue that the FN research and resource-building project has contributed extensively to advances in the two theories.

Next, I will show that FN has garnered attention in the field of natural language processing (NLP) (e.g., Gildea & Jurafsky 2002) and it will continue to gain further prominence for enhancing NLP technologies.

Finally, I will suggest that in the age of deep learning, collaboration between linguists and NLP researchers is both important and critical (cf. Bender 2020). Equally important and necessary is our continued qualitative description and analysis of linguistic data, since only linguists can develop hypotheses concerning speaker knowledge of language (cf. Fillmore 1992). Examining FrameNet data is a good place to start.