# 2006 CCRTS THE STATE OF THE ART AND THE STATE OF THE PRACTICE

#### **Content Analysis of HUMINT Reports**

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#### **Abstract**

The new deployments of the German Federal Armed Forces cause the necessity to analyze large quantities of Human Intelligence (HUMINT) reports. These reports are characterized by a large topical and linguistic variety. Therefore, they are good candidates for applying techniques from computational linguistics. In this paper, the ZENON project is described, in which an information extraction approach is used for the (partial) content analysis of English HUMINT reports from the KFOR (Kosovo Force) deployment of the Bundeswehr. The overall objective of this research is to realize a graphically navigatable Entity-Action-Network. The information about the actions and named entities are identified from each sentence and the content of the sentences are formally represented in typed feature structures. These structures can be combined and presented in a navigatable network. After a short introduction, the information extraction approach is explained. The ZENON project is described in detail. English HUMINT reports from the KFOR deployment form the basis for the development of the experimental ZENON system. These reports are used to build a specialized text micro-corpus with semantic annotations. This KFOR text corpus is described as well.

#### 1. Introduction

On one hand, the new deployments of the German Federal Armed Forces cause the necessity to analyze large quantities of HUMINT reports. These reports are characterized by a large topical and linguistic variety. For that reason, they are good candidates for applying techniques from computational linguistics to analyze natural languages. On the other hand, the *processing of human language* was identified as a critical capability in many future military applications (cf. [Steeneken, 1996]). Especially the *content analysis* of free-form texts is important for any information operation of the Network Centric Warfare (NCW) concept (s. [NCW, 2001], p. 5-15). We set up the research project ZENON<sup>1</sup>, in which an information extraction approach is used for the (partial) content analysis of English HUMINT reports from the KFOR deployment of the Bundeswehr. The overall objective of this research is to realize a *graphically navigatable Entity-Action-Network*. The information about the actions and named entities are identified from each sentence and the content of the sentences are formally represented in typed feature structures. These structures can be combined and presented in the navigatable network.

The ZENON project is based on the results of the former SOKRATES<sup>2</sup> project. In this project we applied information extraction to the analysis of German free-form battlefield reports (cf. [Casals, 2004a], [Casals, 2004b], [Frey, 2004], [Hecking, 2001], [Hecking, 2002], [Hecking, 2004], [Casals, 2004b], [Casals,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> according to: Zenon of Citium, 336 BC - 264 BC, philosopher, founder of the Stoicism

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> according to: Socrates, 469 BC - 399 BC, philosopher

2003a], [Hecking, 2003b], [Hecking, 2004a], [Hecking, 2004b], [Hecking, 2004c], [Schade, 2003a], [Schade, 2003b]). The SOKRATES prototype was able to process written battlefield reports (e.g., messages about hostile movements, deployments) in German. The reports were analyzed, represented in feature structures and semantically enhanced with the help of an ontology. With the SOKRATES prototype we showed the general applicability of the *Information extraction* (IE) technology for military purposes.

This paper is structured as follows. First, a short introduction into the information extraction approach is given. Then, the ZENON project is described in detail. English HUMINT reports from the KFOR deployment form the basis for the development of the experimental ZENON system. These reports are used to build a specialized text micro-corpus with semantic annotations. This KFOR text corpus is described as well.

#### 2. Information Extraction

In the last decades various techniques for processing spoken and written natural languages were developed (e.g. speech recognizer in dictation systems, machine translation, grammar checking). IE is an engineering approach (cf. [Appelt, 1999]) for content analysis of free-form texts based on results of computational linguistics. Each IE system is tailored to a specific domain and task. IE uses a *shallow syntactic approach* (cf. [Hecking, 2003b]), i.e. that only parts of the sentences (so-called 'chunks') are processed with finite state automatons or transducers.

During the IE relevant information about the Who, What, When, etc. in natural language texts is identified, collected, and normalized (cf. [Pazienza, 1999], [Hecking, 2004a]). The relevant information is described through patterns called *templates*. These domain and task specific templates represent the meaning of the relevant information. During the IE task the templates are filled with the extracted information. One possibility to realize the templates is to use *typed feature structures* (cf. [Hecking, 2004b]). Therefore, IE can be seen as the process of normalizing free-form text into a defined semantic structure.

To realize an IE system, language-specific resources (lexicon, grammar) and appropriated parsing software are necessary.

In order to achieve robust and efficient IE systems, domain knowledge must be integrated and shallow algorithms must be used. The domain knowledge is tightly integrated with the language knowledge, e.g., the name 'Leopard' in the lexicon has the categorical information 'tank'. This association between words and semantic information is domain-specific and has to be change for other applications.

The IE process itself is divided into sub steps. After tokenizing the text, the sentence boundaries must be identified. Then, the morphological component identifies the word stems, the abbreviation, and detects the syntactic information (e.g., grammar case and gender). After this, the chunk parsing with transducers selects parts of the natural language text that are relevant for

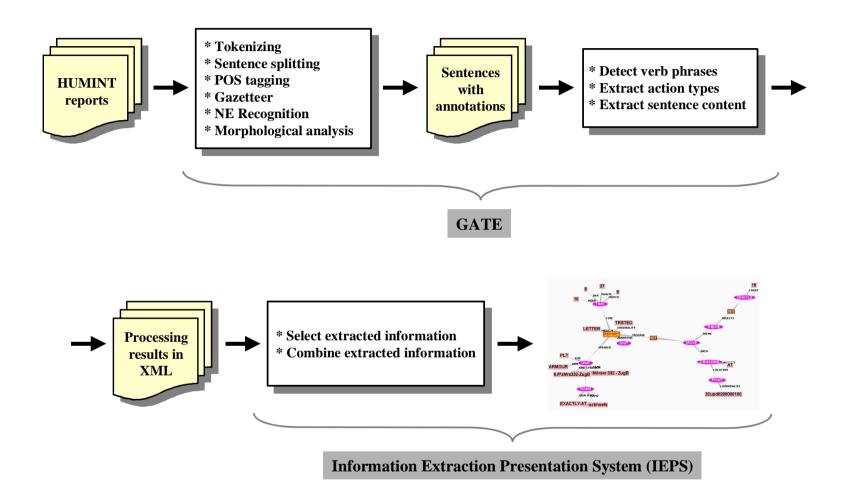


Figure 1: The ZENON processing chain

the specific information extraction task. The chunks are then used to instantiate the templates, which represent the action/event descriptions. They are the result of the IE process.

The IE is used as the core natural language processing technique in the ZENON project.

#### 3. The ZENON Project

#### **Outline**

Starting with English HUMINT reports (and a list of the city names) from the KFOR deployment of the German Federal Armed Forces we have realized in our ZENON project a prototype that is able to do a (partial) content analysis of these reports (cf. [Hecking, 2005a]). The content of these KFOR reports are from a wide spectrum. Apart from descriptions of conflicts between ethnic groups, tensions between political parties, information about infrastructure problems, etc. there are also reports, which concern individuals or other entities. Statements of the form 'A meets B', 'A marries C', 'A shoots B', etc. contains information about activities/events and involved entities. This information, completed with location and time data, is combined into a graphically navigatable Entity-Action-Network (e.g.; with a person in the center of the network). The intelligence analysts can use this network to navigate through the content of the reports.

Since most of the reports are in English, GATE (General Architecture for Text Engineering, cf. [Cunningham, 2002]) was selected as the used toolbox. GATE is an architecture, a free open source framework (SDK) and graphical development environment for Natural Language Engineering and offers a lot of tools, which are used to realize the natural language processing parts of the ZENON prototype (e.g., morphological analyzer, part-of-speech (POS) tagger, pre-defined transducer to recognize English verbal phrases, chunk-parsing). The functionality to select and combine the extracted information from different sentences and different reports is realized by the *Information Extraction Presentation System* (IEPS). IEPS is a graphical tool to visualize information extracted from free-form texts.

In Figure 1 the ZENON processing chain is shown. HUMINT reports are fed into the first sub-component. In this component the natural language text is tokenized (i.e., find words, numbers, etc.), the sentence boundaries are detected, the part-of-speech (i.e., whether it's a noun, a verb, etc.) is determined, simple names of cities, regions, military organizations etc. are annotated (through the Gazetteer), named entities (i.e., complex names of e.g. political organizations, person names, etc.) are recognized and a morphological analysis is done. The result of this sub-component are the annotated sentences of the reports. The second sub-component uses these annotations to extract the action type (e.g., 'kill') starting with the verb of the sentence. If the action type is determined the other parts of the sentence (e.g., subject, object, time expressions) are located and formally represented in *typed feature structures*. These structures are coded in XML (Extensible Markup Language) format and represent the output of the natural language part of the ZENON prototype. In the third sub-component (IEPS) the extracted content of different reports can be combined and selected according to predefined XSLT (Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformation) sheets. The result of the analysis can be navigated interactively.

#### **Extraction of Named Entities**

An important processing step during the natural language processing is the recognition of the domain- and application-specific named entities. In the ZENON prototype transducers for the

recognition of the following named entities were developed: City, Company, Coordinates, Country, CountryAdj, Currency, Date, GeneralOrg, MilitaryOrg, Number, Percent, Person, PoliticalOrg, Province, Region, River, Time and Title. An example is shown in Figure 2.

```
Rule: PersonName1
// Recognizes: "Mr. Bedredin SHEHU", "Mrs SHEHU"
// Output: TempPerson{title, firstName, lastName,
                      gender, 'PersonName1'}
 (
    // Titel
         ({PersonTitle}):title
         ({Token.string == "."})?
    )
    // First name
         ({Lookup.majorType == person_first}):firstName
    )?
    //Last name
    ({Token.category == NNP,
      Token.orth == allCaps}):lastName
         {Token.string == "-"}
         {Token.category == NNP}
    )?
):person
-->
{ . . . }
```

Figure 2: Named entity recognizer 'PersonName1'

#### **Extraction of Verb Phrases, Action Types and Sentence Content**

GATE offers various transducers to recognize the English verb groups. We have adapted and extended these transducers to fit our application. In addition to finite and non-finite verbal phrases also modal verb phrases, participles and special composed verb expressions are recognized. Figure 3 shows an example.

```
Rule: FVGPrePerPasNeg
//Recognizes: Present Perfect Passive Negative:
             "hasn't been eaten"
//Pattern:
             (has | have) not been VBN
//Output:
             VG{adverb, infinitive, neq='yes',
             tense='PrePer', type='FVG', voice='passive'}
    (
         {Token.string == "has"} |
         {Token.string == "have"}
    (NEGATION)
    {Token.string == "been"}
    (ADVS):adverb
    ({Token.category == VBN}):verb
):x
{ . . . }
```

Figure 3: Verb phrase transducer 'FVGPrePerPasNeg'

Based on the recognized verb groups different action types can be detected (e.g., from the infinitive of 'murder', 'kill', 'decapitate', ... the action class 'kill'). After detecting the action type the verb phrase and other parts of the sentence must be combined. In the ZENON project we use the *Semantic Frames* from the FrameNet project (cf. [FrameNet]) to realize this combination. Semantic frames are schematic representations of situation types (eating, killing, spying, classifying, etc.) together with lists of the kinds of participants, objects, and other conceptual roles that are seen as components of such situations. These semantic arguments are called the frame elements of the frame. Figure 4 shows an example. The core (must exist) frame elements for the frame 'killing' are CAUSE or KILLER and VICTIM. In the example sentence 'John' fills the role KILLER and 'Martha' fills the role VICTIM.

```
Semantic Frame
'killing':

A KILLER or CAUSE causes the death of the VICTIM.

Core frame
elements:

CAUSE, KILLER, VICTIM

Non-core
frame elements:

DEGREE, DEPICTIVE, INSTRUMENT, MANNER,
MEANS, PLACE, PURPOSE, REASON, RESULT, TIME

Example sentence:

[John KILLER] DROWNED [Martha VICTIM].
```

Figure 4: Frame 'killing'

Associated with each Semantic frame are examples with typical syntactic realization of the frame elements. These examples and examples from the KFOR reports form the basis to construct the transducers, which produce the sentence content.

During the processing, the associated Semantic Frame is inferred from the detected action type. With the identified Semantic Frame the core and non-core frame elements are give. Recognized named entities, POS tagging and expressions from the sentences are used to fill in the frame elements.

For example, after processing

John Mueller and four other persons were killed in an explosion incident in GOSTIVAR area.<sup>3</sup>

the named entities for the person, the city and the number (see Figure 5) and the verb group (see Figure 6) were produced. This information together with miscellaneous language material from the sentence is used to produce the content representation of the whole sentence (see Figure 7). The type of the sentence is 'kill'. For the victims there are two pieces of information. The value of ':victim' is the identified person. The name of the victim doesn't span the whole expression in front of the verb phrase. Therefore, there is more information about possible victims in this sentence. For not loosing any information, the whole expression is stored in ':victimAll'. The cause of the killing-event is stored in ':causeAll'. The information where the killing took place is given through ':place' and ':placeAll'.

Figure 5: Recognized named entities (abbreviated)

```
{
    :type=:vg,
    :infinitive=kill,
    :typeVG=FVG,
    :tense=SimPas,
    :voice=passive,
    :rule=FVGSimPasPas
}
```

Figure 6: Recognized verb group (abbreviated)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The names are not the real ones.

```
:type=kill,
:verb=
     :type=:vg,
     :infinitive=kill,
     :typeVG=FVG,
     :tense=SimPas,
     :voice=passive,
     :rule=FVGSimPasPas
   },
:victim=
     :type=:person,
     :firstName=John,
     :lastName=Mueller,
     :start=534,
     :end=546,
     :rule=PersonName2
  },
:victimAll= John Mueller and four other persons,
:causeAll=an explosion incident,
:place=
     :type=:city,
     :name=GOSTIVAR,
     :rule=City
  },
:placeAll= GOSTIVAR area,
:sentenceContent=John Mueller and four other persons were killed in an
                 explosion incident in GOSTIVAR area.,
:start=534,
:end=624,
:rule=killAction2
```

Figure 7: Formal representation of sentence content

#### **Information Extraction Presentation System**

The natural language processing module of the ZENON prototype creates for each sentence in each KFOR report a formal representation of the content. This contains information pieces about activities, events, entities, times and places. These pieces are now put together according to specific analysis requirements (e.g., all information about a specific person). The result of this recombination is a *graphically navigatable Entity-Action-Network*. The intelligence analyst can use this network for faster access the important information from the used set of reports.

In the ZENON prototype the above describe functionality is realized by the *Information Extraction and Processing System* (IEPS, cf. [Casals, 2005]). IEPS is a graphical software tool (see Figure 8) for visualizing information typically extracted from free-form texts by a natural language processing system. Additionally, it offers a framework to organize all the files being employed during the processing in user-defined scenarios and to activate the IE process. IEPS represents extracted information by means of interactive graphs. The results of the IE system can be filtered in different ways, either by hiding unimportant information, or by combining results from different reports and sentences. This is done by using XSLT. The visual interface is based on TouchGraph (cf. [TouchGraph]).

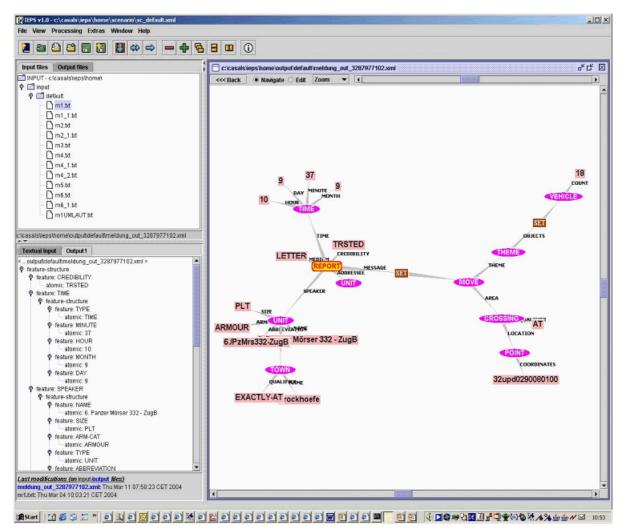


Figure 8: Information Extraction and Processing System (IEPS)

#### 4. The KFOR Corpus

4,498 military reports (mostly in English) from the KFOR deployment of the German Federal Armed Forces were used for the realization of the ZENON prototype. From these reports 800 were manually annotated and form the *KFOR Corpus*<sup>4</sup>. This corpus is a specialized micro text corpus (cf. [McEnery, 2001, p. 191]). The corpus covers 886,000 tokens and contains the annotations in different layers (cf. [Hecking, 2005b]). The following layers are available:

- Original markups: In this layer those parts of the message are annotated, which are already formatted (e.g. addressee, topic, source).
- Token: This layer contains the annotations, which are supplied by the tokenizer and the POS tagger.
- Gazetteer: In this layer those expressions are annotated, which were identified over lists of names (e.g., first names, city names).
- Sentence: These annotations refer to sentences and begin and end markers of comments.
- Named entities: City, Company, Coordinates, Country, CountryAdj, Currency, Date, GeneralOrg, MilitaryOrg, Number, Percent, Person, PoliticalOrg, Province, Region, River, Time and Title.
- Verb Group: The verbal phrases are annotated.

During the creation of the corpus a first version of the annotations were produced automatically. These annotations were then checked manually and corrected. For both working-steps GATE was used. The corpus is represented in

- the GATE-specific format,
- the GATE-specific format in XML, and
- the ANC (American National Corpus) stand-off annotation format.

For the following purposes the KFOR corpus is used:

- 1. It represents the basis for the construction of the IE component. The lexicon and the transducers are optimized towards the corpus.
- 2. The performance of the ZENON IE can be quantitatively evaluated relative to the KFOR corpus.
- 3. The KFOR corpus can be used for other research objectives (e.g., complexity of nominal phrases, word sense disambiguation, machine learning of grammatical structures, etc.).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Since the KFOR corpus is classified, it is not freely available.

#### 4. Conclusion

In this paper, the ZENON project was presented. In this project an information extraction approach is used for the (partial) content analysis of English HUMINT reports from the KFOR deployment of the Bundeswehr. First, a short introduction into the information extraction approach was given. Then, the ZENON project was described in detail. The KFOR text corpus was mentioned as well.

A first version of the prototype was constructed. It is able to process sentences of action type 'kill'. This will be extended to other action types. On the natural language processing side using WordNet will extend the processing capabilities.

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# **Content Analysis of HUMINT Reports**

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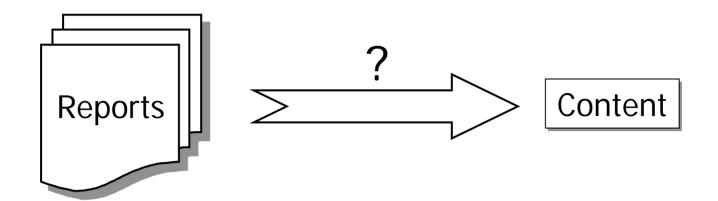


**Content** 

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Information Extraction
- 3. Project ZENON
- 4. KFOR Corpus







- General problem: There are a lot of natural language texts (military reports, emails, web pages, scientific reports, documents, ...) which can't be evaluated due to missing specialists.
- Which technical possibilities exist of automating the content extraction?
  - → Practical approach: Information Extraction (IE)





- Specific problem: content extraction of HUMINT reports
- ZENON project: The overall objective is to realize an experimental system for (partial) content extraction of HUMINT reports from the KFOR deployment of the Bundeswehr and to realize a possibility to evaluate the formal representation of the content.
- For the realization of the IE module approx. 4000 English HUMINT reports are available.





- For the realization the toolbox GATE is used.
- The ZENON prototype was integrated into the "CliCC" system.
- "CliCC" is a German contribution for CWID 2006.
- For the evaluation of the ZENON IE the KFOR text corpus was developed.





- Information extraction (IE) is the task of identifying, collecting and normalizing information from natural language text.
- Relevant information about the Who, What, When, etc. is looked for.
- The information of interest is described through domainspecific lexicon rules and patterns called *templates*.
- During the IE task these templates are filled with the collected information.
- The templates are domain and task specific, i.e. for each new task and domain they must be newly created.



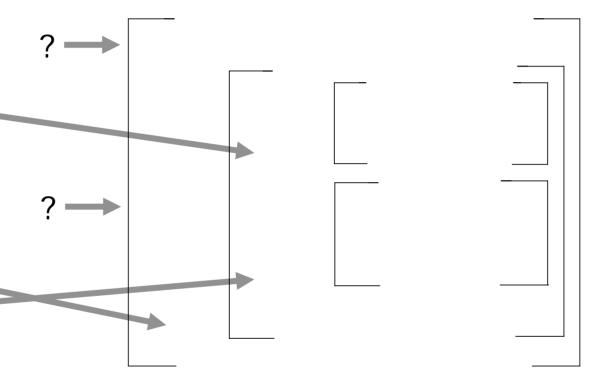
"... in TUZLA:

10.20 a.m.

18 vehicles

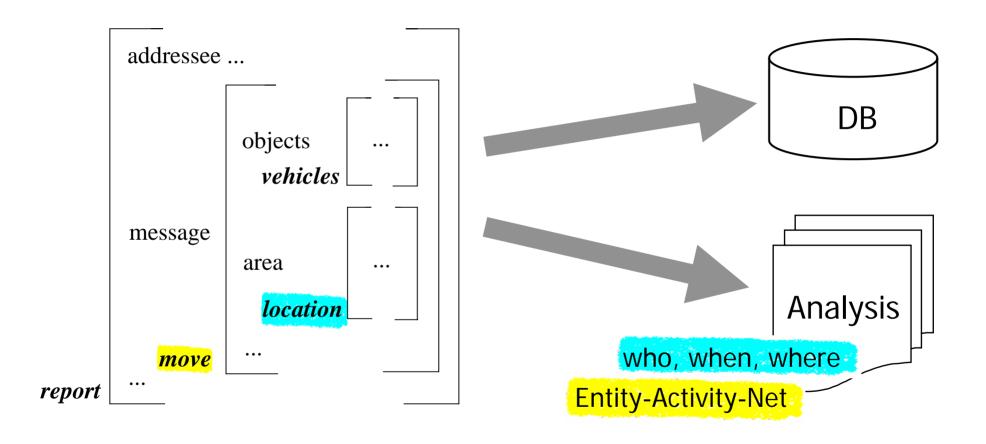
- 8 with attached ZIS-3 and 1 with attached T 12 - march

at road crossing (CQ 072368) south of MILESKIJ (CQ 0737) to the north."













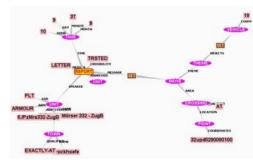
- Technical basis of the information extraction:
  - extensive linguistic knowledge
    - general and application-specific lexica
    - general and/or application-specific phrase grammars
    - general (and/or application-specific) clauses and sentence grammars
  - cascaded transducers, i.e. finite state automaton that reads from the input and writes to the output
  - only application-relevant parts of the texts are analyzed through transducers (shallow parsing techniques)





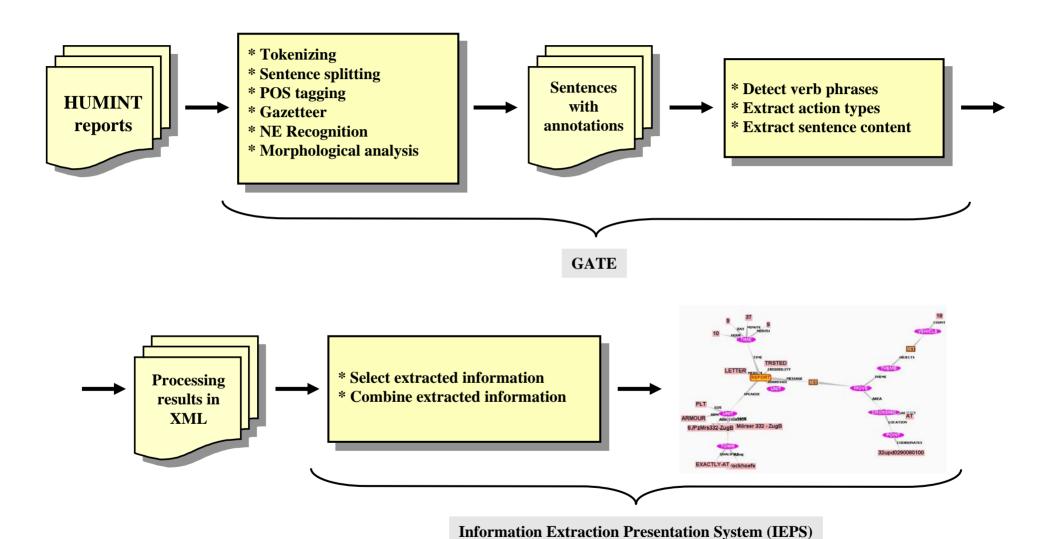
### The experimental ZENON project:

- The Information Extraction (IE) technology is used for the content extraction.
- The information about the actions and named entities are identified from each sentence and the content of the sentences are formally represented in typed feature structures.
- These structures can be combined and presented in a graphically navigatable Entity-Action-Network.













## 3 | ZENON Project: GATE

#### **GATE:**

- "is one of the most widely used human language processing systems in the world."
- "comprises an architecture, framework (or SDK) and graphical development environment ..."
- "... has been under construction in Sheffield since 1995."
- "The system has been used for many language processing projects; in particular for Information Extraction in many languages."
- "GATE is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the EU and commercial users."
- http://gate.ac.uk/





### 3 | ZENON Project: Extraction of Named Entities

- Chunk parsing of named entities (NE): City, Company, Coordinates, Country, CountryAdj, Currency, Date, GeneralOrg, MilitaryOrg, Number, Percent, Person, PoliticalOrg, Province, Region, River, Time and Title
- Example:

```
Rule: PersonName1
(
     ( ({PersonTitle}):title ({Token.string == "."})? )
     ( ({Lookup.majorType == person_first}):firstName )?
     ({Token.category == NNP, Token.orth == allCaps}):lastName
     ({Token.string == "-"}{Token.category == NNP})?
):person
-->
{...}
```





# 3 | ZENON Project: Sentence Content - I

### Determine action types:

- extraction of verb phrases (modal verb phrases, participles, special composed verb expressions)
- mapping from recognized verb groups to action types (e.g., from the infinitive of 'murder', 'kill', 'decapitate', ... to action type 'kill').





## 3 | ZENON Project: Sentence Content - II

### Sentence analysis:

- The basic structures for the semantic sentence analysis are given by the FrameNet-Project.
- Semantic roles are specified for the lexical units (frames, verbs).
- Example: Frame Killing
  - Def.: A KILLER or CAUSE causes the death of the VICTIM.
  - Roles: CAUSE, KILLER, VICTIM, DEGREE, INSTRUMENT, ...
  - Sentence: [John Mueller and four other persons VICTIM] were killed in [an explosion incident CAUSE] in [GOSTIVAR area PLACE].
  - Formal representation ...





## 3 | ZENON Project: Sentence Content - III

```
:type=kill,
:verb={:type=:vg, :infinitive=kill, :typeVG=FVG, :tense=SimPas, ...},
:victim={:type=:person, :firstName=John, :lastName=Mueller, ...},
:victimAll= John Mueller and four other persons,
:causeAll=an explosion incident,
:place={:type=:city, :name=GOSTIVAR, ...},
:placeAll= GOSTIVAR area,
:sentenceContent=John Mueller and four other persons were killed ...,
:start=534,
:end=624,
:rule=killAction2
```





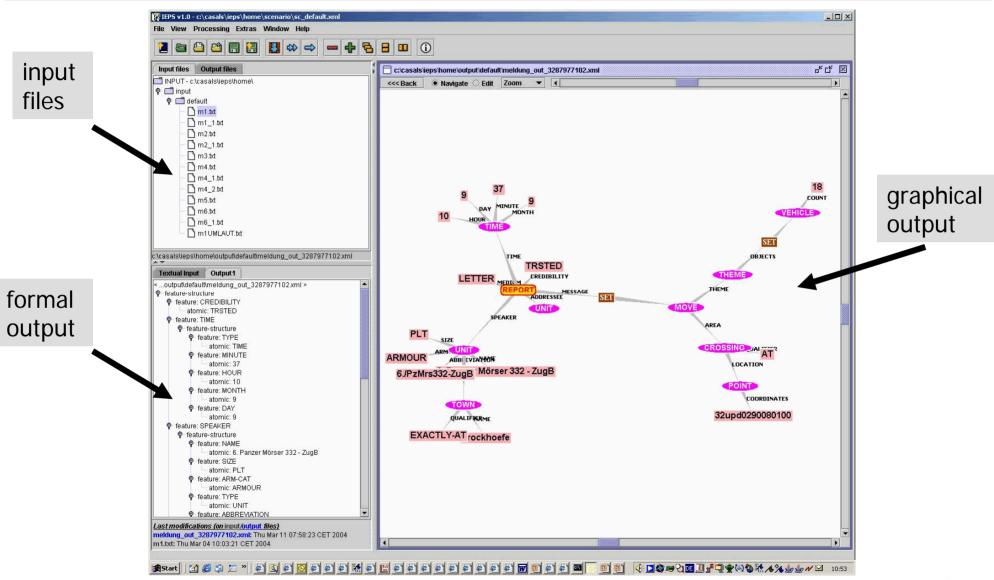
# Information Extraction Presentation System (IEPS):

- Graphical presentation of the extracted information (typed feature structures)
- Scenario: Name, sets of input and output files (XML coded feature structures), filter.
- Filter: Description of the transformation with XSLT





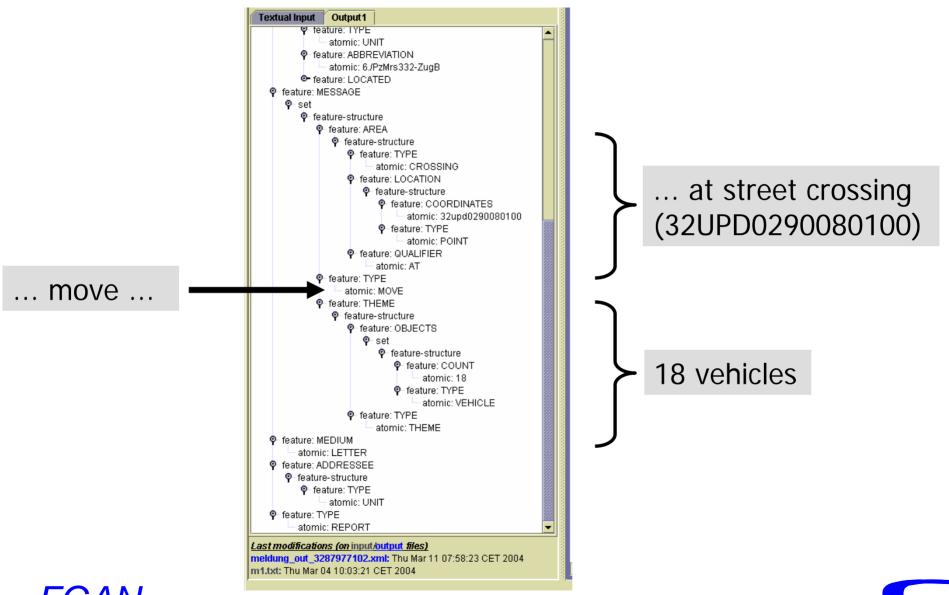
### 3 | ZENON Project: IEPS - II





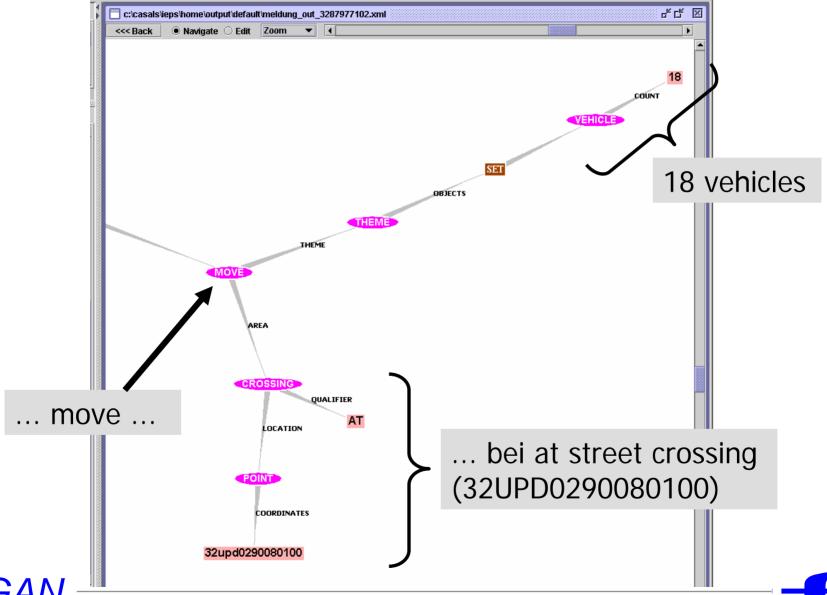


### 3 | ZENON Project: IEPS - III





## 3 | ZENON Project: IEPS - IV





- KFOR corpus: Approx. 4.000 Military HUMINT reports from the KFOR deployment of the Bundeswehr are the basis for the realization of the KFOR corpus.
- specialized micro text corpus
- 886,000 tokens
- The corpus is classified.





## Annotation layers:

- Original markups: parts of the message which are already formatted (e.g. addressee, topic, source)
- Token: annotations from the tokenizer and the POS tagger
- Gazetteer: expressions identified through lists of names
- Sentence: sentences begin and end, markers of comments
- Named entities
- Verb phrases





- During the creation of the corpus a first version of the annotations was produced automatically.
- These annotations were then manually checked and corrected.
- For both working-steps GATE was used.
- The corpus is represented in
  - the GATE-specific format,
  - the GATE-specific format in XML,
  - an stand-off annotation format.



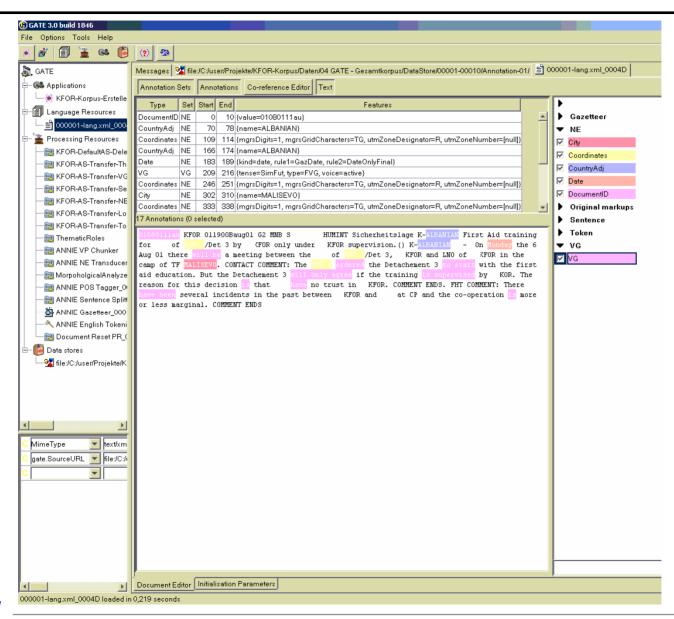


- For the following purposes the military messages and the corpus can be used:
  - They represent the basis for the construction of the IE component. The lexicon and the transducers were optimized towards the corpus.
  - The performance of the IE of the ZENON prototype can evaluated quantitatively relative to the corpus.
  - The corpus can be used for other research objectives (e.g., complexity of nominal phrases, word sense disambiguation, machine learning of grammatical structures, etc.).





### 4 KFOR Corpus - V







## 4 KFOR Corpus - VI

