UNIB20005: Language and Computation

Project 1: Language Technologies

A variety of useful "language technologies" have been developed, with the goal of improving the usability of devices and services, and improving access to stored information. In this project, you will research a language technology of your choice. You will need to interact with an actual working system, and report on your experience.

Submit report approximately five pages long (1500 words), in PDF format. Name the file `uname.pdf` where *uname* is your university username (all lowercase, no punctuation).

Your report should cover the following aspects (and you should use these section headings):

1. **Motivation**: why would someone need this technology? are there different versions to meet different needs?
2. **Operation**: which actual system did you use? how does it work? what kinds of knowledge does it require? (include technical detail)
3. **Examples**: give examples of actual system input and output; try to illustrate interesting aspects of the system
4. **Evaluation**: how effective is the system? what are the strengths and weaknesses? what kinds of mistakes does it make and why?
5. **Impacts**: if this technology was widely adopted, what effects might it have on language and society?

Your work will be assessed for correctness, clarity, and insight. The report must be original work. Literal quotations must be clearly marked, and must be accompanied by a citation. All sources should be cited in a references section at the end. The report is worth 10% of the total marks for this subject.

Some example technologies and available systems are listed below. (You are welcome to choose other language technologies; please check with the coordinator if you are not sure the technology is relevant.)

Question answering:
    http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Question_answering
    http://www.answerbus.com/
Automatic summarization:
    http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic_summarization
    http://newsblaster.cs.columbia.edu/
Machine translation:
    http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machine_translation
    http://translate.google.com/
Dialogue systems:
    http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dialog_system
    http://www.chatbots.org/
Speech recognition:
    http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speech_recognition
    http://www.speechapi.com/
Grammar checker:
    http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammar_checker
    http://www.spellchecker.net/grammar/

Submit your work via the LMS by the end of week 4 (10pm on Friday 17 August).