

Reading Assignment 4

COMP 550, Fall 2021

Due date: Dec 6, 2021 9:00pm

Read the following paper and write a critical summary of it:

Bender and Koller. Climbing towards NLU: On Meaning, Form and Understanding in the Age of Data. In *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*. <https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/2020.acl-main.463/>

Your summary should include a description of the paper's contents, its strengths and limitations, and any points that you did not understand. I expect that there will be concepts that you do not understand! Do not worry, and document this in your write-up. Note that this is a *position paper*. This means that the goal of the paper is to present an opinion or argument and provoke thought or discussion, rather than to propose a new method or to describe a new discovery.

Also, discuss the following issues in your write-up:

1. This paper presents a particular definition of *meaning* and *understanding*. How do these agree with or contrast with other definitions of these terms that we have encountered in the course?
2. State how you agree or disagree with the main points of the paper, with justification and drawing on examples where applicable.

Your summary should be **at most 1 page**. It will be graded on the basis of its coverage, linguistic quality, and clarity of argumentation.

Resources

- Jason Eisner's guide to reading papers: <https://www.cs.jhu.edu/~jason/advice/how-to-read-a-paper.html>