

HOW CAN WE CAPTURE MULTIWORD EXPRESSION?

Seongmin Mun¹, Guillaume Desagulier², Kyungwon Lee³

UMR 7114 MoDyCo - CNRS, University Paris Nanterre, France¹

Life Media Interdisciplinary Program, South Korea¹

UMR 7114 MoDyCo - University Paris 8, CNRS, University Paris Nanterre, France²

Department of Digital Media, South Korea³

ABSTRACT

Topics in a text corpus include features and information. Analyzing these topics can improve a user's understanding of the corpus. These topics can be divided into two types: those whose meaning can be described in one word and those whose meaning is expressed through a recurring combination of words, also known as multiword expressions (MWE). Out of context, the MWE 'she sets the bar high' is ambiguous between a literal and a metaphorical reading. Ambiguity resolution is needed to extract accurate topics. Several well-known techniques have been proposed for topic extraction: TF*PDF (Khoo Khyou Bun et al., 2002), Topic Detection and Tracking (Kuan-Yu Chen et al., 2007), LDA (T. L. Griffiths and M. Steyvers, 2004), inter alia. However, most of these techniques target single words, not MWEs. In this paper, we propose a system that extracts MWE-based topics accurately. Our algorithm breaks down into six steps: Recognition, Pre-Processing, Processing, Candidate Extraction, Topic Validation, and Storing. We benchmark the Evaluation step using ambiguous sentences. Results show that the algorithm identifies MWEs faster and more accurately. This is because it detects problematic expressions, parses them in the light of a repository of resolved MWEs, and manages to provide a correct interpretation. Compiling a repository of MWEs that are correctly parsed and interpreted is time consuming. We show how this can be solved in the near future.

KEYWORDS

Multiword expression, Topics extraction, Lexeme, Syntax analysis, Semantic analysis, Parsing

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