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INFERRING DISCOURSE RELATIONS FROM IMPLICIT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY FRAMENET

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One of the most discussed examples in the recent literature on conversational implicatures is that a sentence like 'It is raining' conveys that it is raining in a particular location. An important question is how this kind of inferences contributes to discourse interpretation. A way to account for these phenomena is to assume that the semantic content given by the linguistic data contains open parameters that are to be filled by pragmatic inferences. This talk suggests that FrameNet (Baker et al. 1998) is a knowledge resource that can provide these parameters.

The key idea of FrameNet is that a lexical unit evokes a particular frame, i.e. a mental representation of a stereotypical situation consisting of various frame elements. For example, the verb 'rain' evokes the frame 'Precipitation' with the core frame element 'Place'. If this element is not expressed in a sentence, it can, however, be represented as an open parameter which is to be filled either by some default value or by subsequent information in the discourse. In this talk, it will be shown that information provided by FrameNet data can give important clues for filling default values for semantically underspecified parameters in discourse interpretation, especially for inferring discourse relations. New axioms for discourse relations in SDRT (Segmented Discourse Representation Theory, Asher and Lascarides 2003) are given that help constructing discourse representations.

References

Asher, Nicholas and Alex Lascarides (2003): *Logics of Conversation*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Baker, Collin, Charles Fillmore, and John Lowe (1998): 'The Berkeley FrameNet project.' In Christian Boitet and Pete Whitelock, eds., *Proceedings of the 36th ACL and 17th COLING*, pp. 86-90. San Francisco.