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This book is published in the series Text, Translation, Computational Processing [TTCP], by Walter de Gruyter, and contains selected contributions to the 9th biennial conference on Natural Language Processing (KONVENS 2008), organized by the scientific societies DEGA, DGfS, GI, GLDV, ITG and ÖGAI in Berlin.

The central theme of this conference was the dynamic interaction between digital text resources and lexical knowledge representations, illustrating in particular the importance of methods in corpus linguistics for building lexical resources on the one hand, and the relevance of lexical resources for analysis of and intelligent search methods for text corpora on the other. The most innovative works presented at the conference were selected in order to publish a reliable and state-of-the-art book for all academics and professionals in the field.

The contributions provide a substantial overview of current trends and issues in the fields of computational lexicography and lexicology, corpus linguistics and text technology. They show the most current research in these disciplines and also shed new light on the researchers in question. All the works include a common element in their experiments and studies: the textual corpus, which is considered to be the base of their studies, as in most of the studies carried out in Computational Linguistics.

The book is divided into three sections, which coincide with the conference’s three main topics of interest.

The first section of the book, “Linguistic Analysis of Text Resources”, discusses techniques, tools and models for the automated linguistic analysis of text resources.

These studies are based on essential tools and techniques of Computational Linguistics, such as Treebank alignment, annotation, evaluation of theme and rheme, and distributional similarity, among others. The six contributions focus on discourse and syntactic elements, and their common aim is to improve the analysis of discourse by Computational Linguistics tools.

The following section, “Extraction of Lexical Knowledge from Text Resources”, describes and evaluates methods for the automatic acquisition of lexical knowledge from digitized and linguistically annotated textual corpora. They implement corpus techniques to improve existing resources, such as WordNet (Towards improved text understanding with WordNet, by Fellmaun, Clark and Hobbs), machine translation dictionaries (Rapid construction of explicative dictionaries using hybrid machine translation, by Eberle and Rapp) and other lexicographical resources, such as juridical resources. Also, they present original studies on dialectology and on oral corpora.

The last section, “Representation of Lexical Knowledge”, presents innovative approaches to the representation of lexical knowledge in digital media for various purposes and user groups. In this section, we find new and original resources based on textual corpora, such as the Spanish WordNet (The Spanish version of WordNet 3.0, by Fernández-Montraveta, Vázquez and Fellmaun), and also innovative tools to improve the functionality of existing or general resources. In this sense, these contributions provide tools for the generation, analysis and management of different aspects of resources, such as the GUI-based tools meant to facilitate the
navigation through and exploration of GermaNet (Tools for exploring GermaNet in the context of cl-teaching, by Cramer and Finthammer) and the development presented by Müller-Spitzer (Research on dictionary use and the development of user-adapted views) of user-adapted views of lexicographic data.

For all researchers interested in NLP and Computational Linguistics, I consider this book can be of great value, since it presents cutting-edge studies in the lexicographical and computational linguistic fields, either in progress or already finished, and it opens new lines of research in the future. In conclusion, I can say that this book includes innovative and exhaustive studies about the topics involved, and it is a coherent and concise book in its whole.