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Hanna Gnatchuk
A Quantitative Analysis of English Compounds in Scientific Texts 1-7

Abstract. The given research focuses on a statistical analysis of English compounds in the scientific texts with a special emphasis on the parts of speech and the cohesion of the constituents. In order to conduct the research in question, we have analysed the books “The Power of Management Capital” (2008) which belongs to the Exact Science and “Tort Law” (2008) which concerns the Humanities. We have analysed each tenth page of the above-mentioned books. The treatment of the data was done with the help of statistical methods.

Hongxin Zhang, Haitao Liu
Quantitative Aspects of RST Rhetorical Relations across Individual Levels 8-24

Abstract. This study converts each tree in the RST (Rhetorical Structure Theory) Discourse Treebank into three trees with mere ultimate nodes of clauses, sentences and paragraphs respectively, examines the rank-frequency distribution of rhetorical relations along three taxonomies at the three granularity levels and finds they all abide by a right truncated modified Zipf-Alekseev distribution. It justifies considering rhetorical relations as a result of a diversification process and verifies the taxonomies in the corpus.

Sergey Andreev
Verbal vs. Adjectival Styles in Long Poems by A.S. Pushkin 25-31

Abstract. This study is based on the methodology, suggested in the research by G. Altmann, S. Naumann, I.-I. Popescu (Naumann et al. 2012). It is used in our research for the analysis of the proportions and distribution of three parts of speech (nouns, adjectives and verbs) in the data-base, consisting of ten long poems by A.S. Pushkin, the great Russian poet.

The proportions of adjectives and verbs against nouns show the type of the author’s poetic visualization of the world (static or dynamic) and the intensity of such description in general.

Discussion

Introduction

Ramon Ferrer-i-Cancho & Carlos Gómez-Rodríguez
Liberating Language Research from Dogmas of the 20th Century 33-34

Abstract. A commentary on the article “Large-scale evidence of dependency length minimization in 37 languages” by Futrell, Mahowald & Gibson (PNAS 2015 112 (33) 10336-10341).
Haitao Liu, Chunshan Xu and Junying Liang
Dependency Length Minimization: Puzzles and Promises

Abstract. In the recent issue of PNAS, Futrell et al. claim that their study of 37 languages gives the first large scale cross-language evidence for Dependency Length Minimization, which is an overstatement that ignores similar previous researches. In addition, this study seems to pay no attention to factors like the uniformity of genres, which weakens the validity of the argument that DLM is universal. Another problem is that this study sets the baseline random language as projective, which fails to truly uncover the difference between natural language and random language, since projectivity is an important feature of many natural languages. Finally, the paper contends an “apparent relationship between head finality and dependency length” despite the lack of an explicit statistical comparison, which renders this conclusion rather hasty and improper.

Richard Futrell, Kyle Mahowald, and Edward Gibson
Response to Liu, Xu, and Liang (2015) and Ferrer-i-Cancho and Gómez-Rodríguez (2015) on Dependency Length Minimization

Abstract. We address recent criticisms (Liu et al., 2015; Ferrer-i-Cancho and Gómez-Rodríguez, 2015) of our work on empirical evidence of dependency length minimization across languages (Futrell et al., 2015). First, we acknowledge error in failing to acknowledge Liu (2008)'s previous work on corpora of 20 languages with similar aims. A correction will appear in PNAS. Nevertheless, we argue that our work provides novel, strong evidence for dependency length minimization as a universal quantitative property of languages, beyond this previous work, because it provides baselines which focus on word order preferences. Second, we argue that our choices of baselines were appropriate because they control for alternative theories.

History

Gabriel Bergounioux
The Scientific Career of an Outsider

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Statistical Analysis of Textual Data:
Benzécri and the French School of Data Analysis

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List of journals containing contributions to Quantitative Linguistics

Book Review

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