Capturing Meaning: How Information Can Be Expressed Without Being Said

Marie-Catherine de Marneffe
Assistant Professor, Linguistics

CURRENT RESEARCH

Developing systems to make sense of the vast amount of information available

Natural Language Processing (NLP) underlies the ability for systems like Siri, and other talk-to-text capabilities to enable computers to derive meaning from what we say. It is a familiar experience however to feel like Siri just doesn't understand what you are trying to say. Luckily, researchers have combined computer science, artificial intelligence, and linguistics to help computers understand not only the literal meaning of a text but also the underlying implicit meaning of a text. Dr. Marie-Catherine de Marneffe, of The Ohio State University, is a linguist that utilizes computational modeling to capture what is conveyed by more than just the literal meaning of words. Her work may therefore aid NLP systems in providing text understanding comparable to what humans achieve and in addition, gain insight into how humans acquire language.

Advances achieved by Dr. de Marneffe's research have the promise of incredible impacts for language technologies. In the current era of ever growing information, having automatic systems that understand the nuances behind speech would benefit information analysts by allowing them to organize and sift through information more quickly and effectively. In fact, Dr. de Marneffe hopes to use such technology to provide a new kind of application that is radically more capable of real understanding that agencies like the NSA could capitalize upon. In addition to applications, Dr. de Marneffe's work has also established closer interactions between researchers in theoretical linguistics and in NLP thereby allowing them to successfully share resources. By leveraging the world of linguistics and computational technology, Dr. de Marneffe provides research that shows how efforts in...

Read More at benefunder.com/

AFFILIATION

Ohio State University

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., in Linguistics, 2012 ,Stanford University
- M.S., in Computer Science, 2002, Universite catholique de Louvain (Belgium)
- B.A., in Classical Languages and Literatures, 2000 ,Universite catholique de Louvain (Belgium)

AWARDS

- Google Faculty Research Award, 2013
- NAACL Best Short Paper Award, 2013
- Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship, 2009
- Fellowship for Research in the U.S.A. Belgian American Educational Foundation, 2004
- Fulbright Scholarship. Commission For Educational Exchange, 2004

RESEARCH AREAS

Technology, Computational Sciences / Mathematics, IOT, Devices, Data

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. de Marneffe, of The Ohio State University, as she works to create an impact on language technologies despite the ever-changing and growing amount of information available. Donations will support the necessary $180K per year required for personnel and equipment. Your support will make you an important part of revolutionizing language technologies to improve accessibility to accurate information in the future.