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Our discourse segment parser is inspired by Centering theoryGrosz et al.(1995). We modify Center-ing theory to approximate it in a neural model. The theory considers entities as candidates of centers. To determine centers at the phrase level or the en-tity level, we would need to incorporate an external

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This paper concerns relationships among focus of attention, choice of referring expression, and perceived coherence of utterances within a discourse segment. It presents a framework and initial theory of centering intended to model the local component of attentional state.

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Centering: A Framework for Modelling the Local Coherence ...

An illustration of the Overton Window, along with Treviño's degrees of acceptance. The Overton window is the range of policies politically acceptable to the mainstream population at a given time. It is also known as the window of discourse.The term is named after Joseph P. Overton, who stated that an idea's political viability depends mainly on whether it falls within this range, rather than ...

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Essay from the year 2016 in the subject English - Grammar, Style, Working Technique, grade: 1.0, University of Tübingen, language: English, abstract: Comparing the apparent contrasting statements of Centering Theory and Fossard, Garnham and Cowles (2012) in regards to demonstrative descriptions, I particularly examined reference resolution as an influencing factor of text coherence. According to the results of Fossard et al. (2012), the reference resolution of demonstrative descriptions was only facilitated when the predicative information referred to the subordinate character in a gender-ambiguous condition. As demonstrative descriptions have an exceptional discourse function due to their anadeictic dimension, they are capable of ensuring unexpected referential continuity by marking a discontinuity with the previous context. In regards to Centering Theory, however, a discourse is more coherent if utterances preserve the same topic and keep it as the highest-focused entity without diminishing its relative ranking. This continue transition state is considered most preferable. While demonstrative descriptions serve in an unexpected and unique way, their exceptionality seems to be beyond the Centering Theory's stated preferences for text coherence and hence not against it.

This study explores the processing of English and Spanish relative clauses (RCs) in discourse. The main goal is to understand how RCs contribute to the textuality of a text and, on the basis of this understanding, to propose the most adequate method for their segmentation in Centering Theory. Centering Theory is a theory of discourse structure that models textual cohesion from one utterance to the next. The definition of utterance is thus instrumental to the application of the Centering algorithm. It is also a key step for any theory of discourse structure. To this point, there is no consensus on what the basic unit of analysis of discourse should be, though the sentence and the clause tend to be the most widely accepted proposals. An analysis of complex clauses reveals that the choice between these two segmentation categories is not always straightforward. In particular, RCs present a challenge for the discourse analyst: While they are finite clauses, they are either embedded in or dependent on another clause. In order to address this challenge, this study investigates the processing of 200 RCs selected from English and Spanish texts belonging to four different genres. It evaluates five different approaches to their segmentation following Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). The evaluation takes into consideration different functional properties of RCs that are associated with their restrictiveness. The adequacy of the different segmentation approaches is measured in two ways: (a) by assessing the degree with which the focus of attention is maintained from an utterance to the next, following Constraint 1 and Rule 2 of Centering Theory; and (b) by identifying the frequency of subsequent mentions of RC entities in the unfolding discourse. The results of a factorial mixed-design ANOVA show that the segmentation approach that identified independent clauses and/or finite clauses in paratactic relations as the unit of analysis had the highest scores in all measures. Based on these findings, we are able to specify the notion of utterance in Centering Theory at the same time as we move towards a more systematic approach to the segmentation of discourse.

This book addresses the question: What can close discourse analysis contribute to the understanding of language? To do so, it presents a centering theory-based computational approach to discourse analysis concerning Chinese bei passive sentences, disposal ba constructions, ditransitive gei sentences, and locative fang sentences. The book first discusses the use of discourse analysis in the context of bei and ba constructions and then demonstrates how discourse analysis can contribute to the syntactic and semantic studies of these sentences. It also examines the various thematic roles differentiated in these four special sentence patterns, namely agent, recipient, theme/patient, and locative, and reveals the various degrees of discourse accessibility of these thematic roles. Exploring the correlation between centering theory and Chinese discourse, the book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in discourse analysis and Chinese special sentential structures, especially the formal approaches to these issues.

The volume addresses the role of salience in discourse and provides broad coverage of various perspectives on and functions of discourse salience. The notion of salience is of relevance to discourse studies in theoretical linguistics, computational linguistics, as well as psycholinguistics.

This study mainly focuses on the revision and extension of two Rules of Standard Centering Theory (Pronoun Rule and Transition Rule) to develop the constraints on the generation algorithm of bridging anaphora (BA) in stream-of-consciousness (SOC) discourse from a revised Centering perspective by incorporating the revised neo-Gricean pragmatic M-principle into the standard Centering. The Centering Theory combined with the revised neo-Gricean pragmatic M-principle is supposed to impose some grammatical and pragmatic constraints on the backward-looking center realization and movement. It provides theoretical rationale for an account of constraints on full noun phrase and elliptical zero pronoun bridging anaphora generation in terms of the interaction and the division of labor between syntax and pragmatics. As to both, one cannot alone handle bridging anaphora without the other. Even though syntax and pragmatics operate at distinct levels of linguistic explanation, they appear to interact systematically in the case of bridging anaphora generation. On the one hand, syntax sets certain restrictions on salience and distributions of bridging anaphora and regulates the part of interpretation which is related to grammatical structure. On the other hand, the choice of bridging anaphoric expressions by writers and their interpretation by readers heavily depends on preference which is regulated by the M-principle of language use and communication. Hence, the bridging anaphora generation algorithm based on the incorporation of the revised neo-Gricean pragmatic M-principle of communication into Centering provides a neat and reasonable explanation for bridging full noun phrase and elliptical zero pronoun generation.

The centering framework explains local discourse coherence by relating a speaker's focus of attention and the forms of referring expressions. Although this framework has proven useful in single-speaker discourse, its utility for multi-party discourse has not been shown. It is unclear how to adapt it to handle discourse phenomena such as turn-taking, acknowledgments, first and second person pronouns, and disfluencies. This paper reports our experiments applying three naive models of centering theory for dialog. These results will be used as a baseline for future, more sophisticated models.

Originally published as the author's thesis (doctoral)–University of Edinburgh, 2008 under the title: Patterns of use of referring expressions in English and Japanese Dialogues.

This book combines theoretical and experimental aspects of the establishment of dependency. It provides an account of dependency relations by focusing on the representation and interpretation of referentially dependent elements, particularly regular reflexives, logophors, and pronouns. First, the establishment of dependency is discussed within a model of syntax/discourse correspondences that predicts an economy-based dependency hierarchy contingent on the level of representation at which the dependency is formed as well as the internal structure of the dependent element and its antecedent. Secondly, the model's predictions are substantiated by a series of experimental studies (conducted in English and Dutch) providing evidence from three sources of online sentence comprehension: reaction time studies, Broca's aphasia patient studies, and event-related brain potential studies. The findings show that dependencies are established at distinct levels of linguistic encoding (i.e. syntax or discourse) determined by the presence or absence of coargumenthood and the representation of the dependency-forming elements.

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