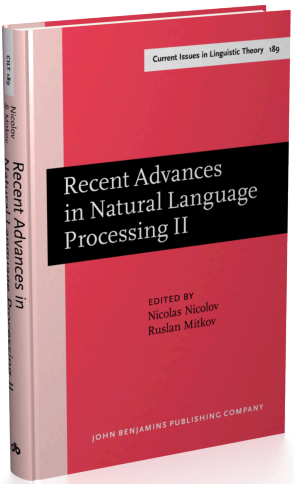
Current Issues in Linguistic Theory
189

Editors' Foreword

https://doi.org/10.1075/cilt.189.01edi



Pages ix–xi of
Recent Advances in Natural Language Processing: Volume II: Selected papers from RANLP '97
Edited by Nicolas Nicolov and Ruslan Mitkov
[Current Issues in Linguistic Theory, 189] 2000. xi, 422 pp.

© John Benjamins Publishing Company

This electronic file may not be altered in any way. For any reuse of this material written permission should be obtained from the publishers or through the Copyright Clearance Center (for USA: www.copyright.com).

For further information, please contact rights@benjamins.nl or consult our website at benjamins.com/rights

Editors' Foreword

This volume brings together revised versions of a selection of papers presented at the Second International Conference on "Recent Advances in Natural Language Processing" (RANLP'97) held in Tzigov Chark, Bulgaria, 11–13 September 1997. The aim of the conference was to give researchers the opportunity to present new results in Natural Language Processing (NLP) based on modern theories and methodologies. The conference was preceded by the summer school "Contemporary Topics in Computational Linguistics" (invited lecturers were: Yorick Wilks, Sergei Nirenburg, Michael Zock, Pieter Seuren, Tony McEnery, Harold Trost, Ruslan Mitkov, and Manfred Kudlek).

The conference received 167 submissions from more than 20 countries. Whilst we were delighted to have so many contributions, restrictions on the number of papers which could be presented in three days forced us to be more selective than we would have liked (the acceptance ratio for RANLP'97 was about 23% — significantly lower than for the previous conference). From the papers presented at RANLP'97 we have selected the best for this book, in the hope that they reflect the most significant and promising trends (and successful results) in NLP.

The book is organised thematically. In order to allow for easier access, we have grouped the contributions according to the following topics: tagging, lexical issues and parsing, word sense disambiguation and anaphora resolution, semantics, generation, machine translation, and categorisation and applications. Clearly, some papers lie at the intersection of various areas. To help the reader find his/her way we have added an index which contains major NLP terms used throughout the volume. We have also included a list and addresses of all contributors.

We would like to thank all members of the Program Committee. Without them the conference, although well organised, would not have had an impact on the development of NLP. Together they have ensured that the best papers were included in the final proceedings and have provided invaluable comments for the authors, so that the papers are 'state of the art'. The following is a list of those who participated in the selection process and to whom a public acknowledgement is due:

Elisabeth Andre	(DFKI, Saarbrücken)
Branimir Boguraev	(IBM, T. J. Watson Research Center)
Chris Brew	(University of Edinburgh)
John Carroll	(University of Sussex)
Robert Dale	(Microsoft Research Institute, Australia)
Rodolfo Delmonte	(Universira Ca' Foscari, Venice)
Tomaz Erjavec	(Josef Stefan Institute, Slovenia)
Steve Finch	(Thomson Technology, Rockville)
Guenter Goerz	(University of Erlangen-Nuernberg)
Eva Hajičová	(Charles University, Prague)
Ed Hovy	(ISI/University of Southern California)
Changning Huan	(Tsinghua University, Beijing)
Leonid Iomdin	(Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)
Pierre Isabelle	(CITI, Laval)
Aravind Joshi	(University of Pennsylvania)
Richard Kittredge	(University de Montreal)
Manfred Kudlek	(University of Hamburg)
Karen Kukich	(Bellcore, Morristown)
Geoffrey Leech	(Lancaster University)
Susann LuperFoy	(MITRE Corporation, McLean)
Carlos Martin Vide	(Universidad Rovira i Virgilli, Tarragona)
Yuji Matsumoto	(Nara Inst of Science & Technology)
Tony McEnery	(Lancaster University)
Ruslan Mitkov	(University of Wolverhampton)
Nicolas Nicolov	(University of Sussex)
Stephen Pullman	(SRI, Cambridge)
James Pustejovsky	(University of Brandeis)
Allan Ramsay	(UMIST, Manchester)
Harold Somers	(UMIST, Manchester)
Oliviero Stock	(IRST, Trento)
Isabelle Trancoso	(INESC, Lisbon)
Harald Trost	(Austrian Institute for AI, Vienna)
Benjamin Tsou	(City University of Hong Kong)
Jun-ichi Tsujii	(University of Tokyo)
Dan Tufis	(Romanian Academy, Bucharest)
Atro Voutalainen	(University of Helsinki)
Yorick Wilks	(University of Sheffield)
David Yarowsky	(Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore)
Michael Zock	(LIMSI, CNRS)

In the final moments of the reviewing process we had to rely on extra help from David Carter (SRI International, Cambridge), Christer Samuelsson

(Xerox Research Center Europe), Yael Ravin (IBM T.J.Watson Research Center), Takehito Utsuro (Nara Institute of Science and Technology), Hiromi Nakaiwa (NTT Communication Science Labs), Daniel Jones (UMIST, Manchester), Saad K. Al-Jabri (Dept. of AI, Univ. of Edinburgh), Keh-Yih Su (National Tsing Hua University, Taipei). Special thanks go to Nikolai Nikolov, Galia Angelova and Kalina Bontcheva for the efficient local organisation.

We believe that this book will be of interest to researchers, lecturers and graduate students interested in Natural Language Processing and, more specifically, to those who work in Computational Linguistics, Corpus Linguistics, Machine Translation.

The next in the series of conferences on "Recent Advances in Natural Language Processing" is expected to be held in the autumn of 2000 and our goal is to organise a bigger event potentially covering more and stronger papers.

We would like to acknowledge the unstinting help received from our series editor, Konrad Koerner, and from Ms Anke de Looper of John Benjamins in Amsterdam. We have built upon our experience from the work on the first RANLP volume. Both, Konrad Koerner and Anke de Looper have continued to be ever so professional.

Nicolas Nicolov produced the typesetting code for the book, utilising the TEX system with the LATEX 2_ε package. He also handled the electronic submissions and the set up the new RANLP web site. Gerald Gazdar kindly allowed us to use the computing facilities at the School of Cognitive & Computing Sciences at the University of Sussex which is gratefully acknowledged.

July 1999

Nicolas Nicolov
Ruslan Mitkov