

Invited Talk: Dag Haug, University of Oslo

Glue semantics for UD

The success of the Universal Dependencies initiative has spurred interest in deriving semantic structures from UD trees. The challenge is to do this while relying as little as possible on language-specific, typically lexical resources that are not available for many of the 60 languages for which there are UD treebanks. In this talk I outline an approach to this problem that builds on techniques developed for LFG + Glue. There are several motivations for this: First, LFG's f-structures track the same aspect of syntactic structure as UD dependency trees. Second, the particular version of dependency grammar that UD embodies has inherited much from LFG via the Stanford Dependencies and the PARC dependencies. Third, unlike many other approaches, LFG + Glue does not assume a one-to-one mapping from syntactic to semantic structures but instead develops a syntax-semantics interface that can map a single syntactic structure to several meaning representations, i.e. the syntax underspecifies the semantics, which is useful when dealing with the lack of information one often encounters in UD trees. In the talk, I will present the theoretical background for UD + Glue and discuss some issues that arose in the development of a proof of concept implementation of the framework.

Bio

Dag Haug is professor of classics and linguistics at the University of Oslo. He has worked extensively in theoretical syntax (mainly Lexical-Functional Grammar) and formal semantics. He has also led various treebanking efforts for ancient languages, which among other things have resulted in the UD treebanks for Ancient Greek, Latin, Old Church Slavonic and Gothic.