Classifying Discourse-Givenness (as Defined in Coreference Resources)

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Determining whether a noun phrase is discourse-given (i.e. referring to something already mentioned, c.f. Prince, 1981, 1992) or discourse-new is an important step in information structure and discourse analysis. The goal of my work is to automatically accomplish this task. As coreference annotation subsumes discourse-givenness, I am using existing coreference-annotated corpora for training a classifier. The talk will comprise (i) a discussion of existing coreference corpora for English (incl. e.g. van Deemter & Kibble's (2000) comments), and (ii) a presentation of classification experiments and results (incl. Ritz, 2010). It will conclude with an outlook on the applicability of such classifiers in corpus linguistics and Natural Language Processing.

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van Deemter, Kees; Kibble, Rodger, 1999. "On coreferring: coreference in MUC and related annotation schemes". Computational Linguistics 26 (4). MIT Press.

Ritz, 2010. "Using tf-idf-related measures for determining the anaphoricity of noun phrases." In M. Pinkal, I. Rehbein, S. Schulte im Walde, A. Storrer, (eds.), Proceedings of KONVENS 2010, p. 85-92, Saarbrücken, September 2010.