





Annotation of L2 corpora for NLP and SLA studies: case of SweLL

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Lena Granstedt, Beata Megyesi, Ildikó Pilán, Julia Prentice, Dan Rosén, Gunlög Sunberg, Mats Wirén







Annotation of L2 corpora for NLP and SLA studies: case of SweLL

Swedish Learner Language

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SweLL -

Research infrastructure for Swedish as a Second Language

Elena Volodina, Beata Megyesi, Mats Wirén,

Lena Granstedt, Julia Prentice, Monica Reichenberg, Gunlög Sundberg

Grant information



 Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, infrastructure project IN16-0464:1

7 mln SEK



• 2017-2019

Partners

- University of Gothenburg: NLP, L2, assessment
- Stockholm university: NLP, L2
- Uppsala university: NLP
- Umeå university: L2/assessment



Participants



Julia Prentice



Monica Reichenberg



Elena Volodina



Gunlög Sundberg



Mats Wirén



Dan Rosén



David Alfter



Ildikó Pilán



Carl-Johan Schenström



Lena Granstedt



Beáta Megyesi

SweLL promises (main)

1. Deliver a well-annotated (gold standard) corpus of L2 essays

- 600 essays, approx 100 per CEFR levels A1-C1 + 100 for control L1 learner corpus
- Incl manual error annotation & manually checked linguistic annotation
- Make available for research (and public?)

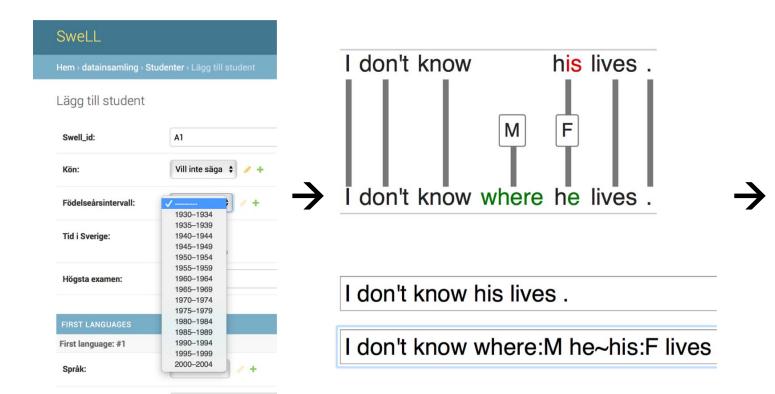


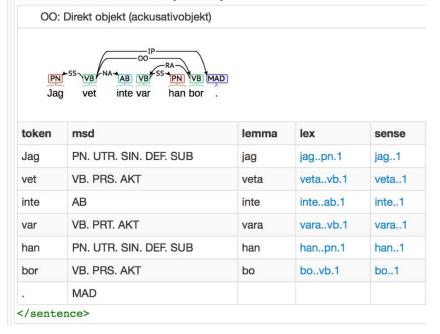
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graph = {
  "source": [
    {"id": "s0", "text": "I "},
    {"id": "s1", "text": "don't "},
    {"id": "s2", "text": "know "},
    {"id": "s3", "text": "his "},
    {"id": "s4", "text": "lives "},
    {"id": "s5", "text": ". "}
  "target": [
    {"id": "t0", "text": "I "},
    {"id": "t1", "text": "don't "},
    {"id": "t2", "text": "know "},
    {"id": "t3", "text": "where "},
    {"id": "t4", "text": "he "},
    {"id": "t5", "text": "lives "},
    {"id": "t6", "text": ". "}
  "edges": {
    "e-s0-t0": {"id": "e-s0-t0", "ids":
```

Swell promises (main)

2. Set a platform (and workflow) for

- Continuous upload of new essays
- Manual error-annotation
- Automatic linguistic annotation





<sentence id="8f7-8b5"> [Visa XML]

SweLL promises (main)

- Set a platform for browsing L2 essays
 - in concordance fashion (+parallel view)
 - In full text fashion



SW1203-UPPSATSER

I Sverige lever många människor det goda livet tycker jag. Det är inte så i många andra land. Människor bryr sig om att äta, träna och sova ordentligt. De vill också ha ett rikt socialt liv vilket är viktigt för psykosocial hälsa. Att ha ett gott liv är något viktigt för mig. Det är ett ständigt jobb. Man måste alltid tänka på sin hälsa. Om man inte har några problem med hälsa måste man träna. Idag sitter vi mycket mer än förrut. Sittande arbete gör oss lat och vi har inte inspiration att börja röra på oss. En familj som ofta vandrar i fjällen, cyklar, promenerar eller lekar ute tillsammans har det goda livet enligt mig. Mat är en av viktigaste saker angoende det goda livet. Man måste välja väldigt noga sin mat. Det är lätt att vara nöjd med halvferdig mat vilket man lagga snabbt. Att lagga riktig nytig mat tar mycket tid och man bör förbereda sig. Jag menar att jag måste köpa färska grönsaker om jag ska lagga någon nytig mat. Jag menar med mat försöker man att äta hälsosamt och undvika fetma, diabetes, hög blodtryck och hjärt och kärlsjukdomar. Det är bäst om man är vegetarisk och icke-rökare. Jag tror att frasen "Det goda livet" ska referera till glad familjen som lever hälsosamt liv utan stress Å andra sida är jag inte säkert att det är möjligt i ett modernt samhälle leva detta liv. I dagens samhället ar viktigt att tjäna mycket pengar därför att pengarna betyder en hög status och vi alla vill ha hög status.

I modernt samhälle kommer tyvärr stress och många andra negativa saker. Till slutet vill jag säga att det goda livet är mitt mål. Ett foto av lycklig familjen på ett bord.

Nu tillbaka till Europa och Sverige. Här har människorna andra problem. Stress, långa

Swell focus (main)

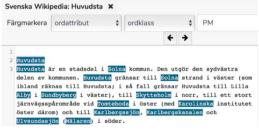
- Adult learners (16+ years)
- Healthy learners
- Written essays (no speech data)
- Where possible longitudinal data

SweLL promises (side path, rather experimental)

- Design a set of exercises
 - To elicit (structured) responses that would answer some interesting research questions
 - To create this way a database that could be used for research
- Develop further Lärka platform for
 - Deploying the above exercises
 - Link user answers to their individual "profiles" (age, gender, L1s, ...)

An electronic research infrastructure







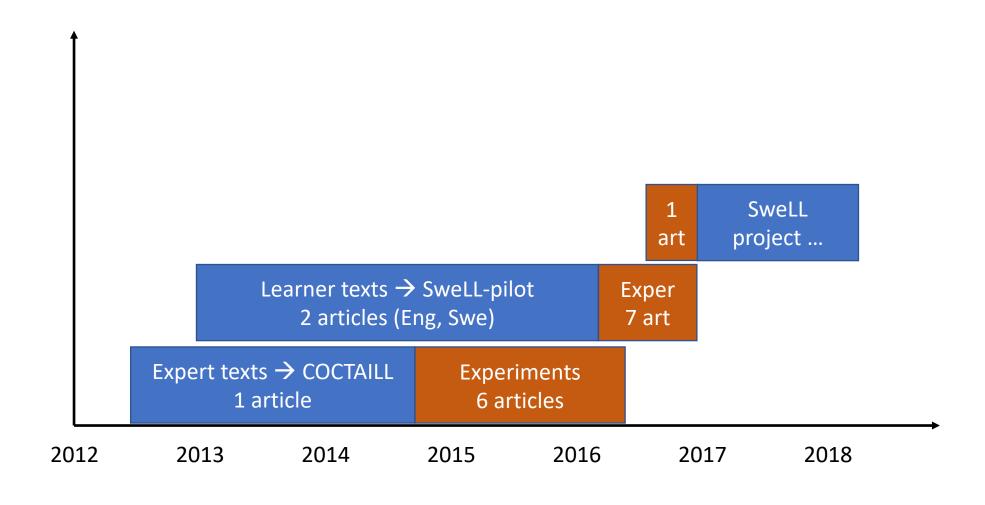
- (free accessible) data in electronic format
- technical platform for exploring data, including tools and algorithms for data analysis, and visualization
- a set of tools and technical solutions for new data collection and preparation, including data processing and annotation
- a network of experts in the relevant disciplines, incl. legal and ethical questions

Data



The Not-So-Secret life of a PI

Curios "time and effect" fact: data vs experiments



Lifetime of corpora vs tools

- Corpora creation costs both in time and money, but:
- Well-documented, representative, reliably annotated and available corpora are used far beyond their initial research purpose
 - Penn TreeBank (Marcus et al., 1993; cited 6813 times), is still used for research (e.g. Pawar, A., & Mago, V., 2018)
 - ICLE (Granger, 1998; cited 358 times) → modern research (e.g. Möller, 2017)
- Whereas tools trained on corpora get outdated as research makes progress



Tools decay, data stay

Annotation makes data interesting/useful

(you get what you annotate)

Annotation should better be good



Gold standard corpus

Annotation...

- ...is now the place where linguistics hides in NLP (Fort, 2016)
 - Parts of speech
 - Base forms of the words (lemmas)
 - Syntactic and semantic information
 - ...



Karën Fort. 2016. Collaborative Annotation for Reliable Natural Language Processing. Wiley.

Annotation...

- ...can "hide" other disciplines than linguistics
 - (e.g. so called) Error annotation
 - Target skills
 - Receptive vs productive skills
 - Level of proficiency in a (second/foreign) language
 - Text genres
 - ...

Implications (for L2 corpora)

- Take other discipline's perspectives into account, at least
 - NLP interests
 - Second Language Acquisition research questions (or a minor share of those)
- It is worth investing time and money into a resource, and work along:
 - Corpus design (representativity, balance, availability)
 - Corpus metadata
 - Corpus annotation & annotation reliability

SLA needs

- Longitudinal L2 data underlying mental representations and developmental processes (e.g. Myles, 2005)
- Speech data (e.g. Myles, 2005)
- Task-based data (e.g. Alexopoulou et al., 2017)
- Individual cognitive processes (scores from intelligence tests, motivation test, aptitude tests; Granger & Paquot, 2017)

• ...

NLP needs

- NLP often
 - is "applied" to other research disciplines and
 - seeks to assist with other discipline's research questions
- but there are a range of (traditional) questions
 - (automatic) error detection
 - (automatic) error correction
 - (automatic) essay grading
 - (automatic) essay classification (e.g. by level of proficiency, genre, topic, ...)
 - L1 identification
 - Linguistic complexity studies (syntax, vocabulary, etc.)
 - ...

Swell corpus design principles

- Representativeness
 - (most popular) immigrant languages
 - age and gender
 - levels of proficiency
 - various tasks?
 - L2 vs L1 learners/writers
- Balance
- Availability
- Annotation
- Documentation

Pre-annotation decisions

Post-annotation work

Corpus design

L1s	A1		A2		B1		B2		C1		Control group		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Arabic	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Χ	X	50
Dari	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Χ	X	50
English	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Χ	X	50
Greek	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Χ	X	50
Croatian	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Χ	X	50
Kurdish	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	X	X	50
Sorani	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	X	Χ	50
Kurmanji	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	X	X	50
Persian	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	X	Χ	50
Somali	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	X	X	50
Spanish	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Χ	X	50
Tigrinya	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	X	X	50
	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	600

Corpus availability(and the legal hassle)

- Necessary step acc to GDPR (EU General Data Protection Regulation)
 - Everyone has the right to know which databases he/she is represented in
 - Everyone has the right to withdraw from the database
- Hence, we cannot destroy the "Name ←→ ID" mapping keys if we want to have (longitudinal) data
- Anyone can demand access to the data (acc to Principle of Public Access to Official Records, Swedish law)
 - \rightarrow however no right to use the information!

Metadata in SweLL corpus...

- ...reflects individual parameters of the authors
 - Gender / unknown
 - Age / year of birth in a 5-year spans
 - First language
 - Knowledge of other languages / situations where languages are used
 - Residence time in Sweden (in total, not the date of arrival)
 - Education level
 - •
- ... describes the task and settings
 - Title
 - Handouts
 - Reference materials
 - Time allowed
 - Home assignment vs exam
 - Grades / performance
 - No school or teacher information
 - ...

• ...

Annotation campaign management

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF TRANSLATION

Towards a 'Science' of Corpus Annotation: A New Methodological Challenge for Corpus

EDUARD HOVY Information Sciences Institute, USA

Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain JULIA LAVID

ABSTRACT

Corpus annotation—adding interpretive information into a collection of texts—is valuable for a number of reasons, including the validation of theories of textual phenomena and the creation of corpora upon which automated learning algorithms can be trained. This paper outlines the main challenges posed by human-coded corpus annotation for current corpus linguistic practice, describing some of the methodological steps required for this indispensable part of the research agenda of Corpus Linguistics in this decade. The first part of the paper presents an overview of the methodologies and open questions in corpus annotation as seen from the perspective of the field of Natural Language Processing. This is followed by an analysis of the theoretical and practical impact of corpus annotation in the field of Corpus Linguistics. It is suggested that collaborative efforts are necessary to advance knowledge in both fields, thereby helping to develop the kind of methodological rigour that would bring about a

Keywords: Corpus annotation, tagging, Natural Language Processing, Computational Linguistics, annotation tools.

Corpus annotation, sometimes called 'tagging', can be broadly conceptualized as the process of enriching a corpus by adding linguistic INTRODUCTION and other information, inserted by humans or machines (or a combination of them) in service of a theoretical or practical goal.





Collaborative Annotation for Reliable Natural Language Processing

Technical and Sociological Aspects

Karën Fort



WILEY

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MERLIN: Lessons Learned

Adriane Boyd

Annotation Formats and Tools

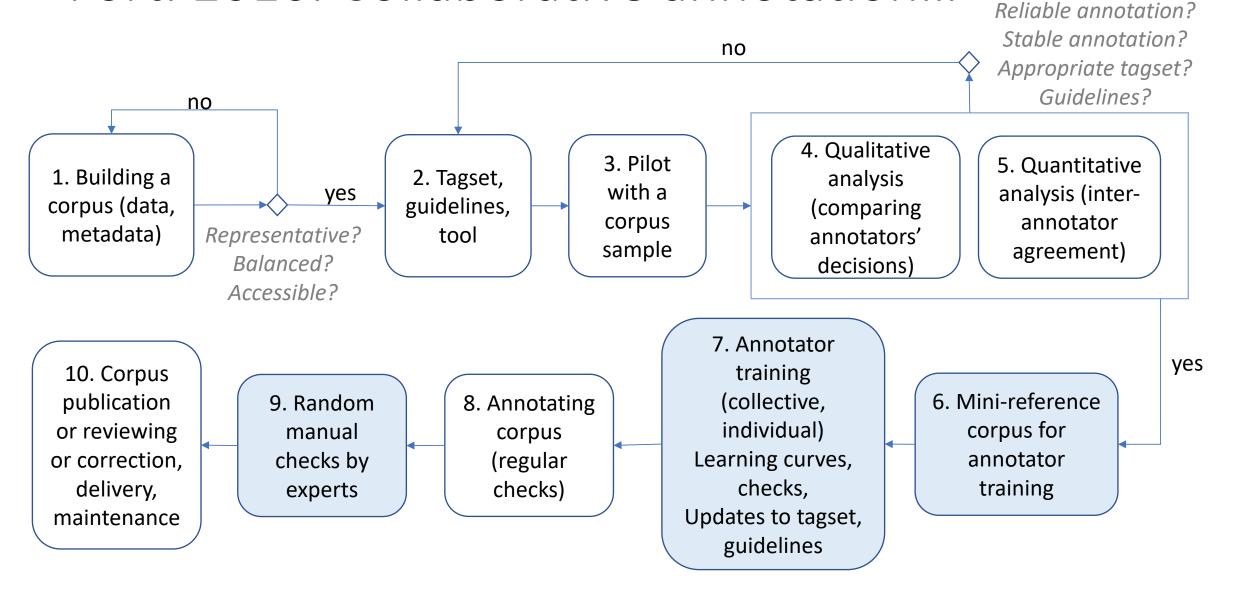
- Beware of Lossy Conversions
- 2. Beware of Annotator Freedom

Annotation Management

3. Plan for Annotation Task Management

Hovy et al. 2010. Towards a "Science" of corpus annotation... Reliable annotation? Stable annotation? no *Appropriate tagset?* Guidelines? no 4. Qualitative 3. Pilot 5. Quantitative 1. Building a 2. Tagset, analysis with a analysis (interyes corpus (data, guidelines, (comparing corpus annotator metadata) Representative? tool annotators' sample agreement) Balanced? decisions) Accessible? yes 6. Annotating 7. Postcampaign: corpus delivery, (biweekly maintenance meeting)

Fort. 2016. Collaborative annotation...



Annotation quality

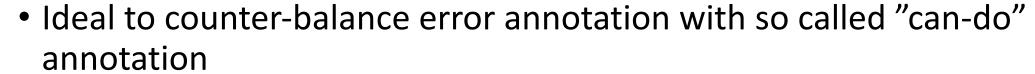
- Reliability & stability >> through inter-annotator agreement checks
- Reproducibility

 agreement of an annotator with himself, intraannotator agreement)
- Random manual checks of the annotations by experts or evaluators

Error taxonomy

Error annotation

- Don't say the "E-word"! (Julia Prentice, EuroSLA, submitted)
 - Negative connotation (SLA)
 - Norm deviations not better, though
 - Interlanguage phenomenon (Díaz-Negrillo et al., 2009)
 - Practice-oriented view as a "non-norm adequate form" (Dobric, 2015)
 - Cross-disciplinary misunderstanding?



- > would allow for e.g. CAF analysis (Complexity, Accuracy, Fluency) (Wolfe-Quintero et al., 1998)
- → would probably help (a bit) to cloze the gap between SLA, LCR & NLP



Julia Prentice

Error annotation

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Julia

What's in a name?
That which we call a rose
by any other name
would smell as sweet.

Shakespeare

- Ideal to counter-balance error annotation with so called "can-do" annotation
 - > would allow for e.g. CAF analysis (Complexity, Accuracy, Fluency) (Wolfe-Quintero et al., 1998)
 - → would probably help (a bit) to cloze the gap between SLA, LCR & NLP

Ideal picture (errors + can-do's)

phenomenon

Linguistic element absent

Linguistic elementpresent, but in adeviating form

Linguistic element present in a correct form

annotation

Absent
No annotation

Error-annotated segment /
Can-do annotated
segment

Can-do annotated segment

Basics first



Taxonomy

Taxonomies are like underwear; everyone needs them, but no one wants someone else's

Anon

Standards are like tooth brushes; everyone likes the idea of them, but no one wants someone else's

Anon



Egon Stemle, EURAC, Italy



Annotation - choosing a taxonomy

Other taxonomies :

ASK : 23 Error types



Lexical (8), morphological (3), syntactical (7), punctuation (4), unidentified (1)

- MERLIN: 64 error types grammar (21), orthografic (8), intelligibility (8), vocabulary (10), coherence (4), sociolinguistic (10), pragmatics (3)
- How detailed should the taxonomy be?
- How important is the target language?
 - similarity between Norwegian and Swedish
 - Comparability between ASK and SweLL wanted



Julia Prentice

Swell pre-pilot experiment

- ASK versus Merlin taxonomy
 - ...was used by project researchers on 2 essays (i.e. producing 4 files each)
 - ...time was taken
 - ...experiences were recorded

SweLL pre-pilot experiment

Summary

- It takes twice as long to use Merlin taxonomy
- ASK taxonomy (L2 Norwegian) is closer to L2 Swedish
- ASK lacks some useful tags
- Decision: enrich ASK taxonomy with a few Merlin tags

SweLL normalization tool

- Transformation-based
- String matching & calculating diff
- Linking on the fly (original normalized versions)
- Parallel text
- Coming:
 - Drop-down menus for error codes
 - Drag-and-drop (spaghetti view)
 - Three-tier representation (original, spell-corrected, normalized)
- Desired:
 - Support with automatic spelling error detection



Dan Rosén, developer

SweLL normalization & error-annotation tool – hands-on demo

https://spraakbanken.gu.se/swell/alpha/

(https://spraakbanken.gu.se/swell/dev/)

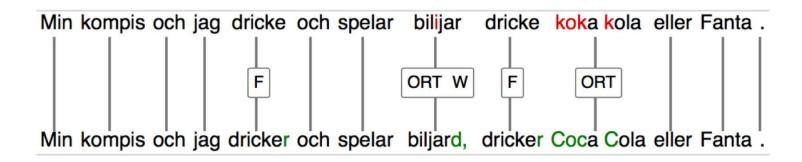
SweLL pilot1

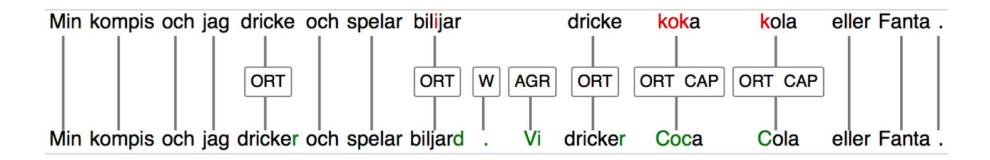
- Test SweLL taxonomy on 9 texts
- Test normalization tool
- Check guidelines, suggest improvements
- Test code book, suggest improvements
- Time it takes to become proficient in error coding and use of the tool

Swell pilot1 insights

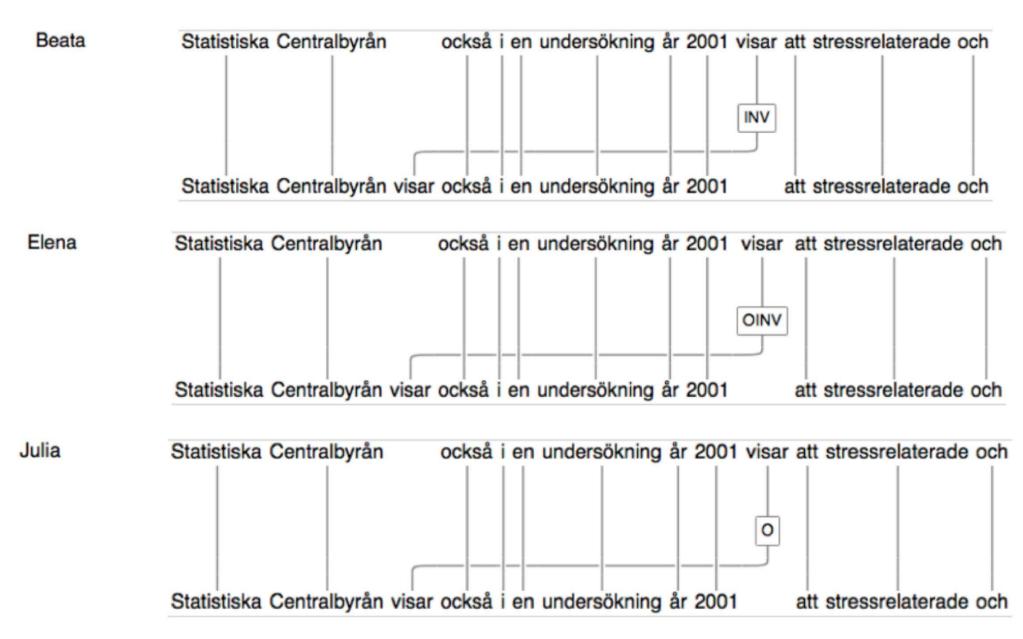
- Minimal change principle is not always observed
- Suggestions on the tool
- Taxonomy needs revisions
 - Confusing tag names (PART, SPL, ORT)
 - Confusing logics of the tags (INV, OINV, O)
 - Lacking tags

Minimal change...





Taxonomy ambiguity



Inter-annotator agreement (pilot1)



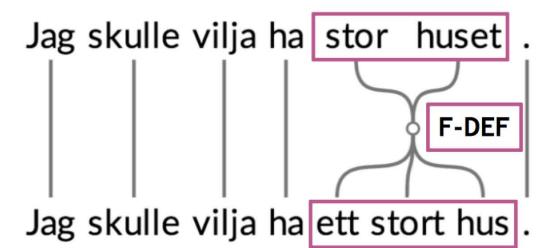
Ildikó Pilán

What to compare?

Span for source token edges

Annotated label(s)

Span for target token edges



Measures

Fleiss kappa

$$\kappa = \frac{\bar{P} - \bar{P}_e}{1 - \bar{P}_e} \qquad \qquad \begin{array}{l} \text{P: observed percent agreement} \\ \text{P}_e\text{: expected percent agreement} \end{array}$$

Krippendorff's alpha

$$\alpha = 1 - \frac{D_o}{D_e}$$

D_o: observed percent **DIS**agreementD_e: expected percent **DIS**agreement

- $\alpha \ge .800$. "tentative conclusions still acceptable"
- α≥ .667 "the lowest conceivable limit [for conclusions]" (Krippendorff, 2004, p. 241)

Krippendorff, K. (2004). Content analysis: An introduction to its methodology. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.

Results I

▶ All edges considered: no annotation -> considered as correct ("CORR")

	Text 3	Text 6
Average agreement	0.903	0.795
Fleiss kappa	0.153	0.458
Krippendorff's alpha	0.149	0.457

Table 2. IAA Results considering all edges

Results II

- Edges annotated by no one -> excluded
- 2 variants for Krippendorff's alpha:
 - ▶ V1: Edges missing from one annotator but present in others -> added
 - V2: Missing values -> NOT added (MV)

	Exact span		Flexible span	
	Text 3	Text 6	Text 3	Text 6
Average agreement	0.313	0.389	0.286	0.402
Fleiss kappa	-0.022	0.277	-0.038	0.307
Krippendorff's alpha - V1	-0.057	0.272	-0.099	0.295
Krippendorff's alpha - V2	0.743	0.611	0.614	0.59

Table 3. IAA Results considering annotated edges

Intra- & inter-annotator agreement...

- "...if humans can agree on something at N%, systems will achieve (N-10%)..." (Hovy & Lavid, 2010)
- "In Sklandica, a Polish treebank, 20% of the agreed annotations were in fact wrong." (Fort, 2016; Wolinski et al., 2011)
- "Whatever measure(s) is/are employed, the annotation manager has to determine the tolerances: when the agreement is good enough?" (Hovy & Lavid, 2010)
- "...perhaps it doesn't matter what the agreement level is, as long as poor agreements are seriously investigated." (Hovy & Lavid, 2010)

Annotation tool

Desirable features:

- Visualize disagreements between annotators
- Compute inter-annotator agreement
- Freely available, maintained, well-documented
- Easy to install and use
- Keyboard shortcuts
- Allow automatization of certain tasks
- Hide/show some (selected) annotations
- Allow customization, e.g. colors of the tags
- Search, edit and compare annotations (and text)
- Associate each annotation with a unique URL → for use in documentation
- Allow to add comments

Annotation management tool

Administrator:

distribute and monitor texts to annotate

General features:

- versioning of the corpus and the tagset
- macro vision of the annotation process (for the whole corpus), and by an annotator (for the portion of texts he/she is assigned)
- compare annotations & compute inter-annotator agreement
- automatic processing to optimize manual annotation
- track time spent by an annotator on a document (and build a learning curve)

Annotators:

- overview of tasks and progress
- possibility to leave comments/"issues", help-messages and "get back later"-note

SweLL (planned) annotation management

- Error taxonomy + tool v1 \rightarrow pilot1 \rightarrow updates in taxonomy, guidelines & tool
- Metadata forms + data collection portal → pilot2 → updates in forms, tool, instructions to teachers, flow revisions
- Updated error taxonomy + tool v2 \rightarrow pilot3 \rightarrow updates + training corpus for annotators
- Transcription & anonymization tool → pilot4 → update in the tool and guidelines
- Updated transcription & anonymization tool → pilot 5 → training corpus for transcribers/assistants
- Annotation management tool (incl task management, issue reporting and reliability check features) → pilot 6 → updates
- Guidelines finalized
- L2 uses (L2 scenarios) to evaluate the need for L2 data search tool alt new functionalities in existing tools

Finally

• Central question in manual annotation: how to obtain *reliable, useful* and consistent annotations?

Annotation in corpora has a theoretical impact: empirical observations → extension/redifinition of theory

 Annotation in corpora has a practical impact: application within teaching, tool and algorithm building The NLP community generally is not very concerned with the theoretical linguistic soundness. The Corpus Linguistics community does not seem to seek "reliability" in the annotation process and results.

(Hovy and Lavid, 2010)

Thank you!

• Questions? Comments?

A question to you...

Do you use corpora collected in other projects for your research?

A question to you...

Do you use corpora collected in other projects for your research?

or is it like with taxonomies and standards:

Taxonomies are like underwear; everyone needs them, but no one wants someone else's

Anon

Standards are like tooth brushes; everyone likes the idea of them, but no one wants someone else's

Anon

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