

Working Group report

WG 3: Ontologies

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Report from 2007-07-14

Reality check

- Some indicated that they consider Leipzig Glossing Rules as a kind of ontology
- Some admitted that they have a degree of ontology-scepticism, but also indicated that they thought it would be a good thing to develop ontologies.
- A variety of uses :
 - Language Technology: machine translation, terminology, parsing,
 - Typology
- We need ontologies, but must be careful not to confuse them with the truth.
- A variety of ontologies are actually being used.

Do we need the advanced properties of ontologies

- Computer scientists or mathematics people use the term Ontology in a stricter sense.
- Terminology
 - Term set
 - Taxonomy
 - Ontology
 - (Super Term Set: customised term set within a COPE)
- At least the use of term-sets is necessary.

What are ontologies good for

- How should one use an ontology?
- How is a linguistic ontologies related to ontologies real world?
- Practical uses
- *Are there things which we are doing which need more than a termset?*
 - Is it a question of how the users will see it.
 - Dissemination format is the real issue.

Relation to other Approaches

- Global Data Category Registry (ISO TC 37 SC4)
- ISO Change Process = Bureaucracy?
- Perhaps it should be clear what a particular ontology is for. 'Search' or 'theorising'.

Annotations and Ontologies

- Many projects use(d) different annotations
 - One could start to find the ‘real’ good annotation scheme. These approaches were proposed in the 90’s, but were not very successful.
 - The other way is to use an ontology to combine, and project ‘Sustainability of Linguistic Resources’ uses GOLD as a backbone
- Annotations and ontology are divided up.
- Mapping of the concepts and the termset is a narrowing

Report from 2007-07-15

Annotations and Ontologies

- What is the best annotation? What is the best practice?
- We need a multilayered ontology.
- The ontology mediates between the layers.
- Output of parsers mapped to GOLD
- Splitting concepts, as in GOLD (morphology, morphosyntax, syntax, semantics)

Ontologies

- Tension between two totally different approaches to the ontology.

Ontologies

SUMO

GOLD

COPE	COPE
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L1... L2... L3

Ontologies

- Or notion of overlaid ontologies

Ontologies

- Relationship between lexicon and the ontology (does ontology inform the *linguistic* structure of the lexicon)
- Ontology exchange: interlingua or direct transfer?

Conclusions

- Annotation mapping
- Change process
- Finding out inconsistencies is of benefit for the community