

Introduction to the Special Issue

This two volume special issue (Vol. 22, No. 3 and No. 4) of the *International Journal of Asian Language Processing* brings together six papers selected from the 25th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation (PACLIC 25) held in Singapore in December 2011.

Two papers deal with argument structure. In *Word-order and argument marking in Japanese vs Chinese vs Naxi*, Paul Law shows how argument marking alone cannot predict word order: a separate syntactic mechanism is required. The paper is a good example of how data from multiple languages gives different parts of a larger explanation. In *A grammar design accommodating packed argument frame information on verbs*, Petter Haugereid provides a computationally-tractable account of linking packed representations of alternations and shows how it gives a more compact and efficient grammar than one which enumerates all alternations. The analysis is fully implemented in a head driven phrase structure grammar of Norwegian, which allows quantitative testing of differences in parsing time.

Three papers are concerned with human processing. Akira Ohtani shows that universally quantified NPs actually reduce the ambiguity in some garden path sentences in *Quantification and the Garden Path Effect Reduction: The Case of the Universally Quantified NP*. This is explained using discourse representation theory to build an incrementally constructed dynamic model of the information structure. Ju-Yeon Ryu looks at child language processing in *The L1 Acquisition of the Imperfective Aspect Markers in Korean: a Comparison with Japanese*. He shows that there are considerable differences between Japanese and Korean children's acquisition which suggests that individual variation is more important than a universal pattern of acquisition. In *Plural problems in the nominal morphology of Marathi*, Shalmalee Pitale and Vijayanthi M. Sarma show that the inflectional paradigm influences how hard some classes of plural are to learn, both for children and adults. In general, less frequent classes are harder to learn.

Finally, Tan Liling and Francis Bond create a parallel corpus of seven different languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese in *Building and Annotating the Linguistically Diverse NTU-MC (NTU —Multilingual Corpus)*. They show some of the issues involved with processing multiple different languages, including sentence splitting, tokenization, part-of-speech tagging and

sense annotation. The corpus is released under an open license (CC BY) and is one of the most linguistically varied multilingual corpora available.

Altogether, these papers highlight the wide variety of theoretical and computational linguistic research in the Pacific region that gets brought together by the PACLIC series of conferences. We encourage you to go to the conference proceedings (available freely online) to look at the rest of the papers.

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