"Coherence-Driven Expectations in Discourse and Dialog"

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Abstract

Problem: Different models have been proposed to capture the relationships that underlie a coherent discourse, with some models applied to monologue (Hobbs 1979, Kehler 2002) and some to dialog (Roberts 1996). This work considers whether the coherence relations that have been posited to implicitly structure a monologue can be linked to the questions-under-discussion (QUDs) that have been posited to explicitly structure a dialog.

Proposal: Using story and dialog continuations, we test whether people write story continuations that answer the questions that they are likely to pose for similar contexts in dialog continuations. The results suggest that parases can be drawn between two different types of discourse models and between the continuations in a single-speaker passage and the discourse moves in a dialog.

Results: We find that biases toward particular questions in dialog continuations are reliably correlated with biases for particular coherence relations in story continuations. The results suggest that parases can be drawn between two different types of discourse models and between the continuations in a single-speaker passage and the discourse moves in a dialog.

Hypothesis: more Explanation coherence relations and more Why? questions following IC verbs than Non-IC verbs

As predicted, % ‘Why?’/‘What next?’/‘How type questions were significantly correlated with % Explanations [F(1,94)=11.31, p<0.002], respectively.

References


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