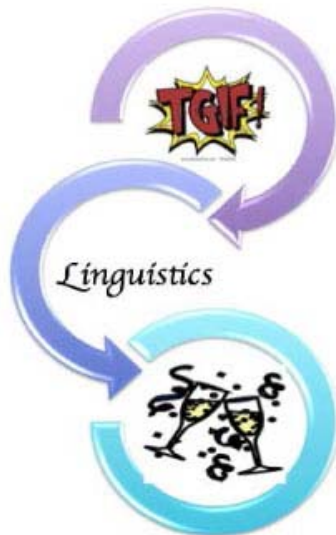


TGIF:

The NTU Linguist Chatroom

Join us!

Wednesday, 14 October 2015, 2.30pm
@ HSS Conference Room (HSS-05-57)



Feeling our way to an analysis of English possessive idioms

The interpretation of idioms has long been a challenge for linguistics. In this talk I will propose a representation for Multiword Expressions that captures their syntax, semantics and decomposability. We use this to describe English possessive idioms. The description includes both syntactic behavior (modeled in the English Resource Grammar, Flickinger, 2011) and semantic interpretation (modeled using WordNet, Fellbaum, 1998). Decomposable idioms are modeled by linking their components directly, non-decomposable idioms by means of paraphrases. We found that idioms take part in normal syntactic behaviour such as frame alternation. The computational implementation was used to identify idioms in the British National Corpus. The database and its links to other resources are released under an open license (CCBY).



Speaker

Francis Bond is an Associate Professor at the Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He worked on machine translation and natural language understanding at Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation, Japan from 1991 to 2006. From 2006-2009 he was an expert researcher at the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology in Japan, where his focus was on open-source natural language processing. He is an active member of the Deep Linguistic Processing with HPSG Initiative (DELPH-IN) and the Global WordNet Association. His main research interest is in natural language understanding. Francis has developed and released wordnets for Chinese, Japanese, Malay and Indonesian and coordinates the open multilingual wordnet with over 150 languages.

Working on syntax and structural semantics, he is developing computational grammars of Chinese, Japanese and Indonesian based on Head-drive Phrase Structure Grammar.

The TGIF seminar series is organised by
 the Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, HSS

