

METAL-Austin Monthly Report

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The following is a summary of METAL and METAL-related activities for the Austin METAL group during the month of November 1989.

Software

Jennifer Oppenheim continued to work on issues related to the frames software. As a partial result of her work she wrote and distributed a proposal suggesting the elimination of FRX and FRG. Additionally, she worked on various modifications to the German and German-English portions of the Intercoder.

Lexicon

Robert Boone returned to the LRC in late November to assist Susan Chapman with the lexicon maintenance and update. He will work quarter-time for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Susan Chapman spent much of the month converting the VST transfer entries for a-e, which had been coded by Lesley Jezierny. These entries were originally coded by Lesley using the original MAP, ADD, and PRUNE operators; Susan's conversion was to the new set of named procedures, developed by Gregor Thurmair during his stay (see below). Susan was also involved with routine lexicon maintenance and updating.

Lesley Jezierny continued her work coding the English-German VST transfer lexicon. She estimates that she will have coded all but the r, s, and t entries by the end of December; an initial evaluation and re-coding of the remaining entries will be completed by mid-January.

Grammar

Robert Khan continued his work with compounds. In particular, he concentrated on coordinate gapped compounds (e.g., *passenger and attendant locations*), infinitive + noun compounds (e.g., *killjoy, edit box*), and compounds with hyphenated prepositions (e.g., *end-of-file, by-product*). In his analysis of the coordinate gapped compounds, the compound rules interact with other rules for gapping to analyze the compound as an essentially un-gapped construction, i.e., *at nearby passenger and attendant locations* is analyzed as *at nearby passenger locations and nearby attendant locations*.

Jocelyn Liu continued to work on debugging and correcting the grammar, especially in relation to the primary benchmark texts. In addition, she streamlined the V-FLEXs and the entries for *be* and *have*. Further, Jocelyn investigated NP structures in the English analysis grammar and wrote the report from the LRC on this topic. Copies of this report were distributed with the last set of reports.

Ana Santisteban continued to focus on parentheticals and quoted strings. Her particular areas of concern were: parenthetical and quoted modals (e.g., *he can (must) read this report, they "may" see him tomorrow*), parenthetical and quoted main verbs (e.g., *the device outputs (prints) the data, the text will "drag" the graphic along*), and the position of punctuation and quotation marks, e.g., *"paragraph tag."* After some discussion with Gregor Thurmair, Ana began a modification of her rules, separating the rules for parentheticals from those for quoted constituents.

Michael Wiesner returned to Austin on 1 November to assist us in the preparations for the 1 February release. This month he ran a lexicon consistency check on the English monolingual and English-German transfer lexicons, worked with Susan Chapman on the VST transfer entries, and worked on a number of generation issues. In the latter area Michael worked with Gregor Thurmair in creating named procedures in the place of the frame constructors, modified the named procedures as needed, and wrote a FRAME-TRANSFER-AND-GENERATION procedure which calls all the new procedures. FRAME-TRANSFER-AND-GENERATION replaces the calls to FRX and FRG in the grammar.

I worked on a variety of issues with respect to the grammar. In addition to a large number of minor changes to various grammar rules, I completed my update of the FREE-CONSTITUENT-FILTER named procedure and updated the procedures used to filter out clauses with illegal nodes in the rules

for handling ellipsis, revised several frame tests, and revised somewhat the treatment of prepositional phrases in the English grammar. In keeping with the decisions made about FREE-CONSTITUENT-FILTER procedures in Barcelona, this procedure no longer assigns roles to adverbial constituents; instead it assigns the appropriate Type of Adverb value and the FUNC feature with values such as ADV-DIR, ADV-LOC, ADV-TMP, etc.

Gregor Thurmair visited the LRC during the period of 13-21 November for administrative and technical support. He was of tremendous assistance to us in writing the entire set of named procedures for VST transfer, as well as working on a number of smaller grammar tasks.