

Anaphoric connectives: Discourse processing at its best!

Manfred Stede (University of Potsdam)

In computational linguistics, the two most central subtasks of "discourse processing" are coreference resolution and the identification of coherence relations (e.g., as building blocks for a representation of discourse structure). While generally regarded as two clearly distinct tasks, they meet in the presence of anaphoric connectives: lexical items that prompt the addressee to recover an antecedent and form a coherence relation holding between two arguments. This phenomenon is widespread in German, which offers a range of adverbial connectives like "trotzDEM", "DEMzufolge" or "DEShalb". After a general overview of the various ambiguity problems introduced by these items, the talk will present observations from a corpus study on "demzufolge" and its disambiguation, as well as results from a recent controlled experiment on antecedent selection for "trotzdem".