Contents

Preface  xii

1. Introduction  1
   1.1. The scientific context  1
      1.1.1. Major context: AI text generation  2
      1.1.2. Minor context: functional linguistics  3
   1.2. Important assumptions  4
   1.3. Specific overview  4

2. Background I: AI problem solving  6
   2.1. The architecture of AI problem solving  6
   2.2. The search-space model  8
      2.2.1. Brute-force search  9
      2.2.2. Heuristic search  9
      2.2.3. Forward-chaining  10
      2.2.4. Goal-directed backward-chaining  12
   2.3. Knowledge compilation  14
      2.3.1. Compilation and granularity  14
      2.3.2. Sources of compiled knowledge  15
      2.3.3. Reasoning from first principles  17
   2.4. Summary  18
Contents

3. Background II: systemic grammar 19
   3.1. History 19
       3.1.1. Malinowski (1884-1942) 19
       3.1.2. Firth (1890-1960) 20
       3.1.3. Hjelmslev (1899-1965) 21
       3.1.4. Halliday (1925- ) 21
   3.2. The goals of systemic grammar 22
   3.3. Important concepts in systemic grammar 24
       3.3.1. Feature 24
       3.3.2. System 24
       3.3.3. System network 25
       3.3.4. Delicacy 27
       3.3.5. Functional analysis 27
       3.3.6. Rank 33
       3.3.7. Realization rules 34
       3.3.8. The metafunctions 39
       3.3.9. Recursive systems 41
   3.4. The strata 43
       3.4.1. The semantic stratum 43
       3.4.2. The grammatical stratum 44
       3.4.3. The phonological/orthographic stratum 44
       3.4.4. Interstratal preselection 44
   3.5. The semantic stratum 45
       3.5.1. Field 46
       3.5.2. Tenor 46
       3.5.3. Mode 46
       3.5.4. Register and metafunction 47
       3.5.5. A closer look 48
   3.6. Example 48
   3.7. Summary 50

4. The conflation 52
   4.1. The fundamental relationship 52
# Contents

4.1.1. Alternatives in AI problem solving  
4.1.2. Alternatives in systemic linguistics  
4.1.3. The fountainhead  
4.2. The conflation  
4.2.1. Conflating gates and forward-chaining rules  
4.2.2. Conflating systems and backward-chaining rules  
4.2.3. Conflating the grammar and the knowledge base  
4.2.4. Conflating text generation with problem solving  
4.2.5. Conflating the semantic stratum with compiled knowledge  
4.2.6. Conflating behaviour potential and general problem-solving knowledge  
4.3. An example  
4.4. Metatheoretical aspects of the conflation  
4.4.1. The status of system networks  
4.4.2. Limitations of the computational paradigm  
4.5. Advantages  

5. The formal model  
5.1. Systemic syntactic structures  
5.2. A formalization of systemic grammar  
5.3. Generation  
5.4. Soundness and completeness  
5.5. Some realization rules  
5.6. Generating structures  
5.7. Formulating realization rules in logic  
5.8. Problem reduction  
5.8.1. AND/OR graphs  
5.8.2. System networks and AND/OR graphs  
5.8.3. Backward-chaining and the solution graph  
5.9. Summary  

6. The implementation  
6.1. Overview  

vi
# Table of Contents

6.1.1. The abstract architecture 105  
6.1.2. The grammar productions 105  
6.1.3. The syntactic structures 108  
6.1.4. The control strategy 110  
6.1.5. Overview conclusion 110  

6.2. SNORT (System Network --- OPS5 Rule Translator) 110  
6.2.1. The system network notation 111  
6.2.2. The production rule notation 115  
6.2.3. The translation 120  

6.3. SLANG-I 121  
6.3.1. Realization productions 121  
6.3.2. The support system 126  

6.4. Limitations of the current implementation 130  
6.5. Alternative implementations 130  
6.5.1. Other production systems 130  
6.5.2. Inheritance hierarchies 131  

6.6. Summary 132  

7. Related work in text generation 133  

7.1. The grammar-oriented approach 133  
7.1.1. PROTEUS 134  
7.1.2. Nigel 136  
7.1.3. Advantages of grammar-oriented systems 136  

7.2. The goal-oriented approach 137  
7.2.1. KAMP 137  
7.2.2. MUMBLE 139  
7.2.3. Advantages of the goal-oriented approach 140  

7.3. Combining the approaches 140  
7.3.1. TELEGRAM 140  
7.3.2. SLANG 142  

7.4. Problem reduction in Nigel and SLANG 143  
7.5. Summary 145
8. Conclusions 146

8.1. Summary 146

8.1.1. The problem 146

8.1.2. The solution 147

8.1.3. The formal model 148

8.1.4. The implementation 148

8.1.5. Related work in text generation 149

8.2. Major problems 150

8.3. Future research 151

8.3.1. Incorporation of SLANG into an expert system 152

8.3.2. Supplementary linguistic treatment 152

8.3.3. Further compilation 153

8.3.4. Reasoning with knowledge at the grammatical stratum 153

8.4.5. Natural-language understanding 154

8.4. Conclusion 156

Appendix A. OPS5 tutorial 157

A.1. The left-hand side 157

A.2. The right-hand side 159

Appendix B. Sample texts 161

B.1. Explanation for a hypothetical expert system 161

B.2. Sample explanation of a plan 166

B.3. Examples from the semantic stratum 181

Appendix C. Excerpts from the grammar 186

C.1. Excerpts from the clause network 186

C.2. Excerpts from the nominal-group network 188

C.3. Excerpts from the determiner network 189

C.4. Excerpts from the quantifier network 189

C.5. The prepositional-phrase network 190

C.6. Excerpts from the verb network 190

C.7. Excerpts from the noun network 192

C.8. Excerpts from the conjunction network 193
Contents

C.9. Excerpts from the modal adjunct network 193
C.10. Excerpts from the preposition network 193
C.11. The semantic stratum 194

Notes 203

Bibliography 204

Index 208