From the Good Enough to the Most Useful

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Aberdeen, 22 June 2007
Where We Are

• For many situations, we can generate one “good enough” RE.
• Often a minimal description will do the job.
• Minimal, and minimally redundant descriptions seem straightforward to produce.
What We Should Aim For

• A systematic definition of “good” for referring expressions.
• The characteristics that make a referring expression “good” or bad.
• Finding ALL “good” referring expressions.
Factors with an Impact on “Goodness”

• Domain Characteristics
• Object Characteristics
• Reference Purpose
• Discourse Situation
• Perspective:
  • Mimicking speaker behaviour.
  • Serving listener needs.
Why We Should Serve the Listener

- Applied systems should avoid mistakes that speakers make.
- Generated REs should:
  - Be easy to interpret for the listener.
  - Facilitate referent identification for the listener.
  - Facilitate task execution for the listener.
Consequences for REG Corpora

• Traditional data collections are inherently speaker oriented.
  • They omit REs that are optimal for the listener.
  • They include REs that are not optimal for the listener.
From the **Possible** to the **Good**

- Logically possible descriptions
- Bad descriptions
- Good descriptions
  - Relational descriptions
  - Optimal descriptions
  - Minimal Descriptions

Good descriptions

Optimal descriptions

Minimal Descriptions

Relational descriptions