

The Global Wordnet Grid: anchoring languages to universal meaning.

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Abstract

I will summarize the development of wordnets in the world and the way they are now related to each other through the English wordnet. These relations are complex because many wordnets have idiosyncratic and special linguistic features that make it different from the English wordnet. Furthermore, the English wordnet has features that are special for English and do not apply to other wordnets. Next, I will present the idea of a Global Wordnet Grid: which is a world-wide initiative of the Global Wordnet Association, to anchor the wordnets in many languages to a shared ontology. I will discuss how the mappings of wordnets can be simplified and a more effective anchoring of meaning can be achieved, while the idiosyncratic and linguistic features of wordnets will reside in each specific wordnet. Finally, I will discuss how the Global Wordnet Grid can be used within an information retrieval and mining context to share knowledge and information across languages and cultures. The information in documents and databases can be directly mapped to these universal concepts, by text mining software that uses language-specific features and wordnets but a common ontological layer. The Global Wordnet Grid thus does not only become a static resource but is also deployed to effectively index information in a universal way.