

LIN5082 Semantics for Language Technology

Continuous Assessment Part II

Answer the following questions briefly, in no more than 3-400 words per question. Give examples to support your arguments. You may choose examples from any language (but you need to give appropriate glosses for examples in languages other than English).

Q1. Word Sense Disambiguation algorithms have the task of identifying, for a given word in a particular context, its intended sense. For example, in the context of the following sentence, the word *run* has the “physical action” sense:

- John ran for thirty miles.
- a. What do you think are the main knowledge sources needed for these algorithms to work? #
- b. Consider the distinction between ambiguity and vagueness. Do you think these algorithms are equally appropriate for disambiguating polysemous and vague words?

Q2. What are the main differences between entailment and presupposition? Do you think presupposition is best viewed as a pragmatic phenomenon, or as a purely semantic one (that is, can it be explained purely in terms of relations between propositions)?