On Measures of Text Complexity

Sowmya V.B., Detmar Meurers

Background
What is it?
Why is it relevant?
Real-life challenge
Some measures
Measures based on identifying specific syntactic patterns
Measures mostly based on general counts of phrases, T-units, clauses, ...

A concrete “real-life” challenge

How do we measure text complexity?
Traditional readability formulas and lexical measures

Complexity and psycholinguistics

How do we evaluate complexity measures?

References

Work in progress

Language n-gram models (Collins-Thompson & Callan 2004; Si & Callan 2001)
Machine learning approaches, with several lexical and syntactic features (Heilman et al. 2007; Petersen & Ostendorf 2009; Lijun Feng & Elhadad 2010)
What kind of features are relevant here? Insights from Language Acquisition Psycholinguistics
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Why is it relevant?

Real-life challenge

Some measures

Traditional formulas and lexical measures

Some recent CL approaches

Language acquisition

Psycholinguistics

How to evaluate

Work in progress

References


