

Logical Forms in Wit

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Computational Humour

Not just using computers in humour

Models of jokes

+ Generating & recognition algorithms

Eg: Jape – a pun generator

Deliberately Poor Speech

Normal communication:

Speak as clearly and simply as you can.

(Some) jokes work by breaking this rule.

Forms of Joke

- Playful Ambiguity
- Obvious Tautologies
- Contradictions
- Convolutd statements
- Quantifier Abuse: $\forall a \in X . P(a)$ where $X \models |X| < 2$
- And more...

Some Early Results

Sarcasm

“You look terrible” → “*You look wonderful*”

“*You look wonderful*” → “You look poor”

Inappropriate (negative) metaphors

not savage → “As savage as an antelope”

not funny → “As funny as a fatal injury”

Future Work

- Implementation
- Richer theory of discourse
- More joke forms
- Formalisation
- Automatic discovery of joke forms

Thank You

Resources & References

WordNet (an enhanced thesaurus): <http://wordnet.princeton.edu/>
LSA: <http://lsa.colorado.edu/>
MRC Psycholinguistic Database: <http://www.psych.rl.ac.uk/>
Online Thesaurus <http://thesaurus.com/>

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