Dependency Relations for Negation in Spoken French

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In 2010 Cerisara, Gardent and Anderson have started the construction of a dependency treebank for French radio broadcast (Cerisara, Gardent, Anderson, 2010). The proposed dependency relations are based on an annotation guide. However, the annotation guide is not complete yet. One of the issues left for a more thorough consideration is negation. Here we have a closer look at negation in spoken French in order to propose adequate dependency relations for negative items. An attempt to automatically implement the proposed annotations is demonstrated as well. Adding the annotation scheme for negation to the general annotation guide of the radio broadcast Treebank increases the phenomena covered by the guide and therefore improves the consistency of annotations.

The proposed annotations are based on linguistic characteristics of the negations, notational issues of dependency grammar and earlier decisions in the annotation scheme.

The manual annotations of negation in the corpus of French radio broadcast that are based on the proposed annotation scheme are able to handle all instances in the corpus. The automatic implementations of the annotation scheme obtain a LAS score of 0.961 with a confidence level of 0.024.