

Automatic coding of the narrative perspective in life story narratives

Tibor Pólya¹

¹ Institute for Psychology of the HAS
1132 Budapest, Victor H. u. 18-22. Hungary
polya@mtapi.hu

Keywords: narrative perspective, deictic center

This presentation is about the algorithm for automatic coding of the various forms of narrative perspective in life story narratives.

The term of narrative perspective refers to the deictic center of a narrative from where the narrator presents the narrative elements (events, characters, and circumstances). Definition of the various forms of a narrative perspective can be based on the temporal location. Assuming that both deictic center and narrative elements are located either to the reported event or to the reporting event, three forms can be distinguished.

Retrospective narrative perspective: the deictic center is located to the reporting event, and the narrative elements are located to the reported event. Experiencing narrative perspective: both the deictic center and the narrative elements are located to the reported event.

Re-experiencing narrative perspective: both the deictic center and the narrative elements are located to the reporting event.

The automatic coding of a narrative perspective makes use of the output of a language parsing software (Lintag) developed by Morphology Ltd. Two main components of the algorithm are the analysis of some deictic markers and specific terms. The analysis of deictic markers includes three categories of deictic markers: time (tense and adverbs of time), place (adverbs of place and demonstrative pronouns), and person (personal pronouns) deixis. The specific terms are the followings: words explicitly referring to dates, interjections, and various expressions of a subjective modality, which are related to the retrospective, experiencing, and re-experiencing narrative perspectives, respectively.