SINSENSE - WORD SENSE DISAMBIGUATION TOOL FOR SINHALA LANGUAGE

Timeth Subasinghe

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) degree in Software Engineering

Department of Computing Informatics Institute of Technology, Sri Lanka in collaboration with University of Westminster, UK

Abstract

Semantic ambiguity in human language has been a challenge for Natural

Language Processing from the inception of it. Solving this would give an

advantage to many NLP tasks such as Machine translation, Information

retrieval, Question answering, speech recognition. Few years around, it was

recognized as an AI-Complete problem which means it is as hard as central

problems or Artificial intelligence.

Sinhala is the mother tongue in Sri Lanka with around 16 million people using

the language. There have been many researches carried out for Sinhala NLP in

areas such as Text to speech, speech text, and so on. There have been few

researches done on Sinhala word sense disambiguation as well, but lack of

resources has made it hard to improve further.

Sin-Sense tries to solve Sinhala word sense disambiguation Using a non-

conventional approach, cross-lingual sense disambiguation where another

language is used to aid the sense disambiguation process in the target language.

This approach is possible because English word sense disambiguation has been

greatly improved and there are services that people can use for sense

disambiguation.

This system is first of its kind for the Sinhala Language with better accuracy

than existing systems. Sin-Sense is available as a web application for everyone.

Keywords: Natural Language Processing, Word Sense Disambiguation, Cross Lingual

WSD

Sinhala WSD

ίV