Abstract

Natural Language Processing (NLP) is that field of computer science which consists of interfacing computer representations of information with natural languages used by humans. It examines the use of computers in understanding and manipulating the natural language text and speech. The main aim of the researchers in this field is to collect the necessary details about how natural languages are being used and understood by humans. They use these details to develop the tools for making the computers understand and manipulate the natural languages to perform the desired tasks. In this paper we describe some of the theoretical developments that have influenced research in NLP. We also discuss automatic abstracting and information retrieval in natural language processing applications. We conclude with a discussion on Natural Language Interfaces, NLP software and the future research in NLP.

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**Index Terms**

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**Keywords**

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