

Seminar on Natural Language Processing and Text Analytics organized at SRIMCA from 25th to 26th
February'2017

In the era of Web, information overloading is not a new challenge. To derive meaning from the information, processing is needed. But complexity of challenge grows heavily as the data is unstructured in nature. This has gained an attention of large number of researchers in the field of natural language processing and text analytics for numerous applications like text extraction, text processing, text analysis, named entity recognition, text summarization, question answering, opinion mining, etc. To cater these needs SRIMCA organized two days seminar NLPTA-2017 25th to 26th February to introduce the domain of NLP and Text analytics along with research work progressing in it. The venue of the seminar was SRIMCA Theatre Hall C-103.

Day 1 of the seminar was occupied with 75+ participants from different colleges of Gujarat aspiring for the domain of NLP. The formal function was hosted by Ms. Anita Gianchandani which was initiated with the UTU anthem recitation followed by lightening the lamp of knowledge and floral felicitation of the experts. She gave a glimpse about Uka Tarsadia University and SRIMCA. Dr. Jikitsha Sheth the coordinator of this event addressed the audience by giving awareness about the two days seminar wherein she mentioned the growing needs of Natural Language in computing era. Dr. Bankim Patel the convenor of the seminar conveyed his best wishes for the 2 days and that the seminar turns adds value to their thought process and give momentum to their research.

Ms. Jaishree Tailor Faculty SRIMCA coordinated the Keynote session where in the expert who had been a scientist, associated with Plasma Research Laboratories, and Dharmsinh Desai University Dr. Dilp Ahalpara was introduced.

Dr. Ahalpara in his keynote address at NLPTA-2017 shared his rich experience on scientific and engineering goals of NLP, its needs, types and applications. He also enlightened the participants on Text Mining, Data Analysis and Analytics being the core component of Text Retrieval. Dr. Ahalpara further made the audience know about the latest trends in NLP such as Language Modelling, Statistical Analysis, Word Association Mining, Uncovering and resolving various levels of ambiguity. He has quoted several interesting and humorous examples along with emerging concepts like Digital Trace, Commufaking, Garden Pathing and research opportunities there on to the participants. He well demonstrated Wolfram Alpa a question answering system. He then drew the audience to the research trends in Question Answering Systems, its architecture, developments. He gave quality information about several organizations boosting up research in QA Systems. His keynote session was thought provoking and ice broke the theme of the seminar making participants embrace the domain. He invoked interaction with healthy question answering on the domain.

The lunch was organized besides B.U.Tarsadia Learning Resource Centre. Comprising delicious food.

The post lunch session of seminar on "Natural Language Processing and Text Analytics" was graced by Dr. Nilotpala Gandhi a Lady of Linguistics and the HOD of Department of Linguistics Gujarat University Ahmedabad, was introduced by Ms. Ronak Gandhi Faculty SRIMCA. Dr. Nilotpala who have had her enormous contribution in Linguistics especially Sanskrit and Gujarati addressed the audience on the theme POS Tagging. Dr. Gandhi initiated the session by acquainting the participants with the features of Indian languages and their Morphology. She further provided special insight into the characteristics of Gujarati language and challenges faced by researchers while working with this language. She entailed the process of POS tagging and highlighted the importance and usage of Paniani grammar.

She shared examples making the session very interactive and giving participants rich ideas for the domain and research in Gujarati language.

Day 1 was concluded with the session of Dr. Jiktsha Sheth who delivered her talk on “Pattern Matching” during NLPTA-2017. During her talk Dr. Jikitsha Sheth discussed on String Similarity, Pattern Matching, and Dhiya Stemmer for Gujarati Language. She also motivated participants towards research activity and gave glimpse regarding future research trends in Natural Language Processing. The participants had attended this session with enthusiasm of learning. Their queries resembled the joy of learning and resource person`s appreciable knowledge satisfied their curiosity.

The Day2 of the seminar NLPTA 2017 unfurled with emerging thrust area which started with the needs for system based on User`s opinion. Expert for this session Ms. Himadri Patel, faculty SRIMCA and Research Scholar UTU threw light on the difference between Opinion and Sentimental analysis, Levels of Opinion Mining, Types and Basic rule of Opinion Mining and Process of Opinion Mining. The participants were benefitted by this session and session was very interactive as well as more effective

Dr. Amit A. Nanavati a Senior Technical Lead for Cognitive Automation Solutions at IBM augmented the participants on both technical and practical aspects on “Mining Generalized Disjunctive Association Rules” prior to lunch followed by post lunch session on “Enriching One Taxonomy using another” that led the participants to newer aspects of Text Mining with Experts Systems. The participants truly got involved that invoked healthy discussion and query solving.

Mr. Pinkesh Patel was the expert for NLPTA-2017 Day-2 technical talk on “Text Summarization”. During the talk, Mr. Patel enriched the knowledge of participants in fundamentals as well as practical approach of Automatic Text Summarization, Multi-document Summarization, and Abstraction based summary and Extraction based summary. The examples discussed by him were very helpful in solving real world challenges faced by the participants in text summarization.

Participants found the seminar very knowledge gaining for their future endeavour and were highly motivated with all the technical sessions that best justified the need and the theme of the seminar NLPTA-2017.