02 Segmentation

Segmentation is the process of dividing text into individual sentences. For the machine annotation of corpora in the Slovenian context, we currently use the CLASSLA-Stanza tagger, more precisely the Obeliks segmentator included in it. The rules guiding the automatic tagging are also adhered to during manual revision.

Introduction to Segmentation

This chapter summarizes the annotation guidelines for sentence segmentation.

The main guideline for demarcating sentences is a combination of final punctuation, space, and a capitalized word. This is supplemented with additional rules that cover abbreviations. These are written with a period, which can also serve as final punctuation (when the abbreviation is at the end of a sentence, e.g., 'itd.') or not (when the abbreviation is in the middle of a sentence, for instance 'itj.'). The final list of abbreviations that fall into either category is included in the Obeliks tool.

For segmenting Slovene non-standard texts, additional rules apply:

 In an entire tweet, check whether automatic sentence segmentation is correct. In the guidelines, the end of a sentence is marked for easier understanding with the symbol ¶.

 If part of the tweet functions as an independent sentence, it is treated as such (“@multikultivator Najbrž ne . ¶ :) ¶ Kot rečeno : bolje BO . ¶ Zrihtamo , ko utegnemo . ¶ (PS : tudi v veselje " konkurence " ;)”).

 The criterion for the end of a sentence is mainly a punctuation mark that acts as the final one in a sentence, e.g., period, exclamation point, question mark, quotation marks, or ellipsis (“Kaj praviš ? ¶ Aha !”).

 Unless there's a good reason to treat something as two sentences, it should remain one (“@urosgruber pri meni naloži CSS .. kar pa ne pomeni , da stran zgleda lepo :)“ → one sentence because the dots acts more like a comma than a period).

 The end of a tweet is automatically also the end of a sentence, so this is not marked.

Complex cases:

 Three dots:

  Ponavadi je končno ločilo (“@SLO_Super_Visor po moje se jo izogiba kot hudič križa. ¶ Glavn da on spet laja … ¶ :-)))))”).

  Sometimes three dots indicate just an ellipsis or a pause in the middle of a sentence – in such a case, it's not final punctuation (“To se mi zdi … neumno.”).

 Names (@name), emoticons (\o/) or emojis ( ), and hashtags (#hashtag):

  If they appear in the middle of a sentence, they are part of the sentence (“neka baka :) uleti pa praša če loh gre kr naprej”, “sej #tarca je pa dons kr ok”, “sej je rekla @Sandra d je treba to drgac”).

  If they appear at the beginning of a tweet, they are treated as part of the first sentence (“@TadejTrcekTITO @lucijausaj @JJansaSDS titek, ne seri. odv. častno razsodišče je JE zgolj za odvetnike.”).

  If they replace the final punctuation, they mark the end of a sentence (“kot da je to važn :)) ¶ nobenga to ne briga vec sploh”).

  If they follow the final punctuation, they are treated as an independent sentence (“Sonce, sneg in pot pod noge! ¶ :) ¶ Gremo v hribe!”).

  If several names, emoticons, or hashtags are strung at the end of a sentence, the last element is considered the end of the sentence (“itak ne morm sploh keša dvignt :) @tibonalta #broke” → the end of the sentence is the hashtag #broke).

Segmentation of spoken Slovene is currently done manually based on prosodically or semantically completed units.

Annotation Guidelines

This chapter summarizes the annotation guidelines for segmentation as applied to Slovene texts.

Version 1.0 for non-standard Slovene

Project Janes - Resources, Tools and Methods for the Research of Nonstandard Internet Slovene

ČIBEJ, Jaka, ARHAR HOLDT, Špela, ERJAVEC, Tomaž, FIŠER, Darja, ZUPAN, Katja, 2016: *Smernice za označevanje računalniško posredovane komunikacije: tokenizacija, stavčna segmentacija, normalizacija, lematizacija in oblikoskladenjsko označevanje.* Različica 1.0. Rezultat projekta Viri, orodja in metode za raziskovanje nestandardne spletne slovenščine. [PDF] - only in Slovene

References and Links

This chapter compiles relevant references and provides links to projects where segmentation has been developed and applied to Slovene texts.

Projects, in which the system has been developed or apllied

JOS - Linguistic Annotation of Slovene: Methods and Resources

Communication in Slovene

Universal Dependencies

Janes - Resources, Tools and Methods for the Research of Nonstandard Internet Slovene

Development of Slovene in a Digital Environment

The Obeliks tool for tokenization and sentence segmentation

https://github.com/clarinsi/obeliks

References

Krek, Simon; Erjavec, Tomaž; Dobrovoljc, Kaja; Gantar, Polona; Arhar Holdt, Špela; Čibej, Jaka in Brank, Janez. The ssj500k training corpus for Slovene language processing. V: Fišer, D. in Erjavec, T. Jezikovne tehnologije in digitalna humanistika: zbornik konference: 24.-25. september 2020, Ljubljana, Slovenija. Ljubljana: Inštitut za novejšo zgodovino, 2020. Str. 24–33.

http://nl.ijs.si/jtdh20/pdf/JT-DH_2020_Krek-et-al_The-ssj500k-Training-Corpus-for-Slovene-Language-Processing.pdf [PDF]