Solving the challenge of locating, preparing, displaying, and reusing academic reading texts for learners with ADAPS

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https://fildpauz.github.io/adaps/





Problem: Authentic academic reading texts



For ESP, authentic texts are desirable (Carver 1983, Gilmore 2011, Hudson 1991)

But this poses several problems

- Locating suitable texts
- Locating timely texts
- Analyzing the text
- Preparing the text for teaching or learning
- Reusing texts
- Sharing and redistributing texts

"Academic Reading" at Waseda Sci/Eng



- One-year required course for 2,000 students in 48 sections taught by 30 teachers
- Coordinated curriculum involving teacher training, semi-uniform testing, and materials development
- Practical needs for materials
 - Show linguistic structure in uniform fashion
 - Allow customization of display, dynamically
 - Be accessible to both teachers and learners

Value of text highlighting



- (Brett 1997, 1998; Chun and Plass 1996, 1997; De Ridder 2002; Hulstijn et al 1996; Lomika 1998)
- Increases incidental learning of vocabulary
- Increases text comprehension
- Increases engagement time with text

ADAPS



- "Academic Document Annotation and Presentation Schema"
- Defines a XML schema for annotating academic documents for various features
- Defines a JavaScript library and stylesheets for visual presentation of documents with interactive capability.

ADAPS Annotation: Vocabulary

- General Service Lists (West 1953)
 - o GSL 1
 - **GSL 2**
- Academic Word List (Coxhead 2000)
 - Sublists 1-10
- Technical terms
- Abbreviations

"This population size, which represents the maximum population size that a particular environment can support, is called the *carrying capacity*, or K."



of English Words With Semantic Frequencies and a Supplementary Word-List for the Writing of Popular Science and Technology

A General Service List

COMPILED AND EDITED BY MICHAEL WEST

LONGMAN



Assume: assumed, assumes, assuming, assumption, assumptions

Authority: authoritative, authorities

Available: availability, unavailable

Benefit: beneficial, beneficiary, beneficiaries, benefited, benefiting, benefits

ADAPS Annotation: Logical connectors



- Annotate constructions

 of *x c y* where [*x*, *y*] are
 standalone clauses and
 [*c*] is a logical connector
 that defines a logical
 relationship between the
 clauses.
- Use schema adapted from Hobbs (1985) and Wolf and Gibson (2005).



ADAPS Annotation: Paragraph structure



- Use classic analysis of paragraph structure: topic, supporting, and concluding sentences.
- Annotate each sentence in a paragraph according to its role.



ADAPS Annotation: Anaphoric elements



- Locate anaphoric links within documents
 - Pronominal expressions
 - Demonstrative phrases
 - Definite noun phrases
- Annotate anaphoric expressions with links to in-text referents



ADAPS Annotation: final product (XML)



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ADAPS Presentation: Table of contents



- Access is not restricted or limited.
- Users can select from a long list of documents in a variety of genres of academic writing.



ADAPS Presentation: Vocabulary



- Clicking on the GSL1, GSL2, and AWL buttons will cause highlighting to appear on the vocabulary words in the text.
- Clicking on an AWL
 word will cause a
 pop-up to appear
 with a dictionary gloss (final sector)

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with a dictionary gloss (from LDCE online).

ADAPS Presentation: Terms & Abbreviations



- Clicking on the terms and abbreviations buttons
 will cause highlighting to appear on those words
 in the text.
- Moving the mouse cursor over a word will cause its definition to appe

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Citation

OpenStax College, Biology. OpenStax College. 30 May 2013 (link)

its definition to appear in a pop-up.

ADAPS Presentation: Logical connectors



- Clicking on the connectors button will cause logical connectors in the text to appear in red.
- Moving the mouse cursor over a connector will cause its type and the connected

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IDEA 2: Staining usually kills the cells

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and the connected ideas to appear in a pop-up.

ADAPS Presentation: Topic sentences



 Clicking on the topic sentences button will cause underlining to appear on topic sentences of paragraphs.

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Choice of texts



- Texts were initially chosen to support the "Academic Reading" course
 - Hence, all texts are from the textbooks used to teach the course: Academic Reading in Science and Engineering, Book 1 and 2 (ARiSE 1, ARiSE 2)
- Other texts chosen from various genres: science news, textbooks, research articles, Wikipedia
- All texts are from open license sources





Current status

- 96 academic texts
- 442 paragraphs
- 32,670 word tokens
 - 22,804 GSL1 word tokens
 - 1,722 GSL2 word tokens
 - 6,146 AWL word tokens
- 140 technical terms
- 44 abbreviations
- 700 logical connectors
- 1,204 anaphors



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Summary of challenges



- Locating texts
 - Preselected texts for pedagogical purposes
- Preparing texts
 - Linguistic analysis and annotation completed
- Displaying texts
 - Flexible, dynamic, customizable presentation
- Reusing texts
 - Open license allows for unlimited reproduction (with source attribution)

Problems and limitations



- Vocabulary sense mismatches possible
 - Sense in text \neq sense in vocabulary list
 - \circ Gloss ≠ sense in text
- Error-checking
- Not fully mobile-compatible

Future plans



- Error-checking (second expert)
- Enable highlighting of anaphoric elements
- Improve compatibility with handheld devices
- Add more texts
- Creates indexes
 - Lists of logical connectors of a specific type
 - Examples of atypical paragraph structure
- Effectiveness research

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