

LETTER FROM WARSAW

The aim of the note is to present briefly an informal team, active at Warsaw University in the domain of computational linguistics since 1969. The core of the team consists in the computer science people affiliated to the Institute of Informatics (formerly Institute of Mathematical Machines). In the Institute the research on computational linguistics is carried also in the Analysis and Synthesis of Information Division (formerly the Laboratory of Systems of Recognition and Reproduction of Information) because of some differences in the goals and the methodology of the research, for the time being these two activities are clearly separated.

The favorable conditions for the team creation has been prepared by Stanislaw Waligorski, D.Sc., who conferred the Ph.D. and M.Sc. degree to the founders of the team. At present he works on natural language access to data bases. Zygimijnt Saloni, D.Sc. in his linguistic research elaborated the framework for a formal description of Polish syntax. He works now with Janusz S. Bień (a founding member of the ALLC) on the formal description of Polish morphology. The algorithms or morphological analysis and synthesis are being reimplemented to accommodate recent theoretical results. Stanislaw Szpakowica, Ph.D., developed a formal grammar of an important subset of Polish and implemented a parser for it. Witold Lukassewicz, Ph.D., investigates temporal aspects of natural language semantics. Some research on pragmatics is being done by Bień.

The team prefers strongly the Prolog languages as a

programming tool, though Lisp and Snobol are also used. The development and the maintenance of Prolog is carried mainly by Stanislaw Matwin, Ph.D., Feliks Kluźniak, M.Sc., and Szpakowicz. There are also some text processing systems under development for particular applications Marak Świdziński, Ph.D., and Tomasz Ksieżyk, M.Sc., are involved in this kind of research.

The teaching activity of the team consists mainly in the lectures and seminars included in the computer science curriculum, but attended also by linguists. The lectures are the following. Waligorski: "Languages and methods of string processing" (since 1967) "Programming Man-Machine Conversations" (since 1977); Szpakowicz: "Prolog language" (since 1979); Bień: "Elements of Computational Linguistics" (since 1979). The main seminars are Saloni's "Formal Description of Natural Language" (since 1977) and Waligórski's "Programming Man-Machine Conversations;" other seminars are entitled "Computational Linguistics" (since 1974), "Programming Languages for Natural Language Processing" (since 1974), "Machine Translation" (since 1976 to 1979).

The most important results are at present available only in Polish. English language publications are systematically listed in the bibliography section of the ALCC Bulletin.

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