



Information-Theoretic Approaches to Explaining Linguistic Structure

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Message from the Guest Editors

Information theory is a highly generic and powerful mathematical framework for analyzing communication systems. In recent years, there has been renewed interest in using this framework to understand linguistic structure. This is in part because language is a communication system that enables effective communication, subject to cognitive, physical, and social constraints on how we encode, transmit, receive, decode, and store linguistic content. Information theory provides ways not only to formalize these constraints, but also to study how they affect the structure of the resulting communication system. Information theory thus provides a bridge between linguistic function and linguistic form.

In this special issue, we invite contributions applying information theory to explain why and how particular linguistic phenomena arise at all levels of linguistic analysis, such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, as well as cross-cutting areas such as sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, acquisition, language processing, etc.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The concept of entropy is traditionally a quantity in physics that has to do with temperature. However, it is now clear that entropy is deeply related to information theory and the process of inference. As such, entropic techniques have found broad application in the sciences.

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