

A corpus-based study of systemic means of persuasion and inference markers in the Polish Parliamentary Corpus

Marcin Będkowski
(University of Warsaw)

Keywords: parliamentary discourse, corpus pragmatics, argumentation, systemic means of persuasion, inference markers

The goal of the paper is to present a corpus-based study of systemic means of persuasion and inference markers in the Polish Parliamentary Corpus (Ogrodniczuk 2018, Ogrodniczuk, Nitoń 2020). Systemic means of persuasion and inference markers are two fundamental though complementary ways of constructing persuasive messages. Generally, inference markers (e.g., “so”, “because”, “therefore”) serve as indicators of the direct speech act of argumentation, although they can also express other sorts of reasoning (Janier, Saint-Dizier 2019, Lawrence, Reed 2020). Systemic means of persuasion are operators that accompany argumentation, though often they are a way of avoiding it by increasing the chances of accepting the expressed judgment without providing its justification. Of particular interest will be four groups of systemic means of persuasion, namely the so-called regress stoppers: assuring phrases (e.g., “Doctors agree...”, “I am certain that...”, “Everyone with any sense agrees that...”, “It is wholly implausible to suppose that...”), guarding phrases (e.g., “Some...”, “It is likely that...”, “I suspect that...”), discounting phrases (e.g., “The ring is beautiful but expensive”), evaluating phrases (e.g., “He is a good/bad person”, “It is a beautiful/ugly flower”, “It is a French wine”) (Sinnott-Armstrong, Fogelin 2010, Sinnott-Armstrong 2018, Awdiejew 2004, 2007).

The results presented will be based on analyses of the Polish Parliamentary Corpus automatically annotated for persuasion operators through the use of a purpose-finetuned token classification model based on the transformer architecture (Devlin et al. 2018, Mroczkowski et al. 2021). The paper will present interesting phenomena observed in parliamentary discourse (i.a., frequency lists of different types of persuasion operators, grammatical types of regress stoppers). The diversity of the texts that make up parliamentary discourse will be characterized by the use of stylometric features based on the relative frequency of systemic means of persuasion and inference indicators. Finally, the different parliamentary persuasive strategies based on systemic means of persuasion and inference markers will be identified.

References

- Awdiejew, Aleksy (2004), *Systemowe środki perswazji*, In: P. Krzyżanowski, and P. Nowak (eds), *Manipulacja w języku*, Lublin: Wydawnictwo UMCS.
- Awdiejew, Aleksy (2007), *Gramatyka interakcji werbalnej*, Kraków: Wydawnictwo UJ.
- Devlin, Jacob, Chang, Ming-Wei, Kenton, Lee and Toutanova, Kristina (2018), BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding, in: *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies*, vol. 1, Minneapolis: ACL, 4171–4186.
- Janier, Mathilde and Saint-Dizier, Patrick (2019), *Argument mining: Linguistic foundations*, London, Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons.

- Lawrence, John and Reed, Chris (2020), Argument mining: A survey, *Computational Linguistics* 45(4), 765–818.
- Mroczkowski, Robert, Rybak, Piotr, Wróblewska, Alina and Gawlik, Ireneusz (2021), HerBERT: Efficiently Pretrained Transformer-based Language Model for Polish, in: B. Babych, O. Kanishcheva, P. Nakov, J. Piskorski, L. Pivovarov, V. Starko, J. Steinberger, R. Yangarber, M. Marcińczuk, S. Pollak, P. Přibáň, and M. Robnik-Šikonja (eds.), *Proceedings of the 8th BSNLP Workshop on Balto-Slavic Natural Language Processing*, Kyiv: ACL, 1–10.
- Ogrodniczuk, Maciej (2018), Polish Parliamentary Corpus, in: D. Fišer, M. Eskevich, F. de Jong, *Proceedings of the LREC 2018 Workshop ParlaCLARIN: Creating and Using Parliamentary Corpora*, Miyazaki: European Language Resources Association, 15–19.
- Ogrodniczuk, Maciej and Nitoń, Bartłomiej (2020), New Developments in the Polish Parliamentary Corpus, in: D. Fišer, M. Eskevich, F. de Jong (eds.), *Proceedings of the Second ParlaCLARIN Workshop*, Marseille: European Language Resources Association, 1–4.
- Sinnott-Armstrong, Walter and Fogelin, Robert J. (2010), *Understanding arguments: An introduction to informal logic*, Belmont, CA: Cengage Advantage Books.
- Sinnott-Armstrong, Walter (2018), *Think again: How to reason and argue*, New York, NY: Oxford University Press.