

## Preface

With the International conference CICLing-2000 we start a series of annual CICLing conferences on Computational Linguistics and Intelligent text processing. It is intended to provide a balanced view of the cutting edge developments in both theoretical foundations of the Computational Linguistics and practice of natural language text processing and its numerous applications. The Conference will be a forum of dialogue between the specialists working in these two areas. To our knowledge, this conference is the first large international conference specifically devoted to Computational Linguistics and text processing to be held in Mexico.

At CICLing-2000, over 30 talks are presented by the participants from Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Holland, Mexico, Russia, Spain, and the United States. We are especially proud to announce the invited talks by *Igor Mel'čuk* (Canada) and *Richard Kittredge* (USA).

*Igor Mel'čuk* was born and developed his famous theory in Soviet Russia though had to leave it and live in exile. He is the founder of one of the paradigms of the computational and theoretic linguistics currently coexisting in the world – the Meaning  $\Leftrightarrow$  Text theory of language understanding. This theory considers language as a transformer from meaning to text and vice versa in a way rather orthogonal to the Chomskian generative tradition. As circumstances have turned out, in spite of all criticism some Russian linguists fulminate against his theory, all of them think in terms of his notions and terminology so that Russian computational and theoretical linguistics cannot be thought of without Mel'čuk – the situation quite analogous to the position of Chomsky in the Western linguistic science.

*Richard Kittredge* is a world recognized specialist in the area of text generation and machine translation. He is the founder of the CoGenTex, a company devoted to the development of state-of-the-art technologies of language processing, text generation and machine translation. He has lead the development of the first practical commercial system of English  $\leftrightarrow$  French automatic translation that was adopted by Canadian government agencies for the practical tasks of on-line document translation.

According to its name – Conference on Intelligent text processing and Computational LINGuistics – the conference mainly focuses on the following topics:

- Computational linguistics theories and formalisms, such as Meaning  $\Leftrightarrow$  Text theory, HPSG, etc.;
- Specific issues in syntactic parsing and semantics;
- Applications in information retrieval and document analysis.

All articles submitted to the conference were subject to careful reviewing process, basing on the results of which the best ones were selected by the international Program Committee for inclusion in the Proceedings.

The preparation of the Conference involved the work of many people. First of all I would like to thank the members of the Program Committee for the time and effort they devoted to the reviewing of the submitted articles and to the selection process. Obviously I thank the authors for their patience in preparation of the texts, not to mention the very development of their scientific products that form this book. I also express my most cordial thanks to the members of the local Organizing Committee for the great work they have done in order for this conference to become reality. Last but not least, I thank our sponsoring organization – the Center for Computing Research (CIC) of the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN) that hosts the Conference.

Sincerely,  
Alexander Gelbukh,  
Program Chair of CICLing-2000



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