

Contents

Preface	1
1 Introduction	3
General Background	11
2 Discourse Relations	13
2.1 Discourse Relations	13
2.2 The Penn Discourse Treebank	14
2.3 Discourse Connectives	15
2.4 Discourse Arguments	17
2.4.1 Notation of the arguments	18
2.5 Semantic Types of Discourse Relations	18
2.6 Annotation Process	22
2.6.1 Theoretical starting points	22
2.6.2 Inspiration from the PDTB approach	23
2.6.3 Annotating on top of syntactic trees	23
2.6.4 Two-phase annotation	24
2.7 Other Annotated Phenomena	26
2.7.1 List structures	26
2.7.2 Discourse special: headings, captions, metatexts	27
2.7.3 Genre annotation	27
2.8 Summary	27
3 Coreference	29
3.1 Basic Terms	29
3.2 Related Work	32

3.3	Grammatical and Textual Coreference	33
3.3.1	Grammatical coreference	34
3.3.2	Textual coreference	36
3.4	Coreference of Nominal Groups with Different Referential Potential	39
3.5	Coreference Annotation in the PDT	43
3.5.1	Scope of annotated expressions	44
3.5.2	Embedded nominal groups	44
3.5.3	Syntactic zeros	45
3.5.4	Non-referring expressions	48
3.5.5	Coordinative constructions	48
3.5.6	Coreference with specific and generic nominal groups	49
3.5.7	Discourse deixis	50
3.5.8	Prepositional phrases	50
3.6	Summary	50
4	Bridging Relations	51
4.1	Typology of Bridging Relations	51
4.2	Annotation of Bridging Relations in Corpora	54
4.3	Annotation of Bridging Relations in the PDT	54
4.3.1	Meronymical relation between a part and a whole	55
4.3.2	The relation between a set and its subsets/elements	56
4.3.3	The relation between an entity and its singular function	58
4.3.4	The relation between coherence-relevant discourse opposites	58
4.3.5	Non-coreferential explicit anaphoric relation	59
4.3.6	Further underspecified bridging relations	60
4.4	Discussion and Summary	61
5	Topic-Focus Articulation	63
5.1	What Is Topic-Focus Articulation	63
5.2	The Importance of Topic-Focus Articulation	64
5.3	The Theoretical Basis	64
5.4	Basic Terms of Topic-Focus Articulation	67
5.4.1	Context and contextual boundness	67
5.4.2	Communicative dynamism	69
5.4.3	Topic and focus	71

5.5	Detection of Topic and Focus	73
5.5.1	Question test	74
5.5.2	Test with negation	75
5.6	Representation of TFA in the Prague Dependency Treebank	76
5.6.1	Annotation of contextual boundness in the PDT	76
5.6.2	Annotation of communicative dynamism in the PDT	78
5.7	Summary	80
Data		81
6	Prague Dependency Treebank	83
6.1	Layers of Annotation	84
6.2	Discourse Coherence Phenomena	86
7	Inter-Annotator Agreement	89
7.1	Within a Single Sentence	90
7.2	Crossing the Sentence Boundary	92
7.3	At the Document Level	94
7.4	Summary	94
8	Searching in the PDT	97
8.1	Basics of the PML-TQ Language	98
8.1.1	Node selection	98
8.1.2	Relations between nodes	99
8.1.3	Negative query	101
8.1.4	Crossing the layers of annotation	102
8.2	Discourse Coherence Phenomena and the PML-TQ	103
8.2.1	Non-dependency relations	103
8.2.2	Topic-focus articulation and anaphora	105
8.2.3	Output filters	107
8.2.4	Output filters in discourse	108
8.3	Hands on the Data	111
8.3.1	Data to download	111
8.3.2	Data for searching	114

9 Relation of Discourse Analysis to Syntax	117
9.1 Features of Syntactic Analysis Used for Discourse-Level Analysis	118
9.1.1 Syntactico-semantic labels for relations between clauses	121
9.1.2 Scope of discourse arguments	132
9.1.3 Connectives	136
9.2 Discourse Structure from the Syntactic Point of View	139
9.2.1 Discourse relations realized intra-sententially and inter-sententially .	140
9.2.2 Discourse relations in subordinate versus coordinate structures . .	143
9.3 Summary	146
10 Morphosyntactic Characteristics of Czech Connectives	149
10.1 General Characteristics	149
10.1.1 Part-of-speech classification	150
10.1.2 Form and inflection	151
10.1.3 Origin	153
10.1.4 Placement in the sentence and in the argument	155
10.1.5 Subordinate, coordinate and inter-sentential connectives	156
10.2 Characteristics of Most Frequent Connectives	157
10.2.1 Frequency	157
10.2.2 Part-of-speech characteristics	159
10.2.3 Intra- and inter-sentential use of connectives	160
10.2.4 Degree of connectivity	161
10.3 Summary	163
11 Multiword Discourse Phrases	165
11.1 A Scale of Explicitness and Implicitness of Discourse Relations	165
11.2 Terminology	166
11.3 Current Annotation of Secondary Connectives in the PDT	167
11.4 Lexico-Syntactic Characteristics of English AltLexes in the PDTB	167
11.5 Syntactic Characteristics of Czech Secondary Connectives	168
11.5.1 Secondary connectives realized by verbal phrases	171
11.5.2 Prepositional phrases	171
11.5.3 Secondary connectives realized by (semi-)clauses	172

11.6 Lexical Characteristics of Secondary Connectives in Czech	173
11.7 Semantic Characteristics of Secondary Connectives in Czech	174
11.8 Summary	176
12 Exploration of Weak Coherence and Coherence Disruptions	179
12.1 Terminology, Data and Workflow	180
12.1.1 Unsigned relations in the RST Discourse Treebank	180
12.1.2 Treatment of no relation in the PDTB	181
12.1.3 Treatment of no relation in the PDT	182
12.2 Results and Discussion	185
12.2.1 New types of relations	187
12.2.2 Reader's expectation as coherence factor	190
12.3 Summary	195
13 Contextually Bound Expressions without a Coreference Link	197
13.1 Data	199
13.2 Reasons of Contextual Boundness without Anaphoric Links	200
13.2.1 Deduction of contextual boundness from previous context	202
13.2.2 Extralinguistic reasons for contextual boundness	204
13.2.3 "Scene setting" circumstances	206
13.2.4 Contextually bound expressions representing measures	207
13.2.5 Technical reasons	209
13.3 Discussion	211
13.4 Summary	213
14 Tracing Salience	215
14.1 Motivation	215
14.2 Related Work	217
14.3 Related Linguistic Phenomena annotated in the PDT	219
14.4 The Salience Algorithm	223
14.5 Learning Salience	229
15 Summary	233

List of Abbreviations	239
Bibliography	241
Sources	257
Subject Index	259
Name Index	263