Optional Extra Credit Opportunity

Linguistics 384 (Detmar Meurers)

Due at beginning of class on Tuesday, March 15, 2005

This optional extra credit assignment is due in class on the day of the final exam, Tuesday, March 15. Absolutely no late submissions.

1. Pick one of the topics covered in our class:

   - Text and speech encoding
   - Searching
   - Spam or Language Classification
   - Writer's aids (spell-checking, grammar-checking)
   - Machine Translation
   - Computer-aided Language Learning
   - Social context of technology use

2. Go to the online ACL (Association of Computational Linguistics) Anthology at `http://acl.ldc.upenn.edu/`. Browse through the listing of conference/workshop papers there and pick **two** of them that relate to the topic you picked. (Obviously you should avoid the more technical papers—it is your first task to read them, so pick wisely.)

3. Write a 3-page paper (typed, single spaced) on the topic based on what we discussed in class and the two papers you have read.

   You should address the following issues:

   (a) Write one paragraph to describe what the topic you chose is about and why it is useful (15%)

   (b) Briefly summarize the various methods people have used to do research on this topic, as discussed in class. (15%)

   (c) For each of the two papers you have read, describe

      i. the specific subproblem being addressed (15%)
      ii. the methods used by the author(s) to address this problem (15%)
      iii. the results reported in the paper (15%)

iv. the strengths and limitations of the methods used in this paper in comparison with other methods discussed in the paper or in class (15%)

(d) Discuss possible avenues you see for future research in this area (10%)

Important:

- You must provide the full titles, authors, and URLs for the papers you read at the end of your paper, or else the paper will not be graded.

- Make sure you cite the sources if you are quoting anything in your paper.

- Each student should work on this project independently, and no two students should intentionally pick the same papers to read.

- Suspected cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Committee of Academic Misconduct.

- Grading will follow the criteria stated above and will be stricter than homework assignments, so plan on doing some serious work if you want to score high.

- This optional extra credit assignment counts for 10%: If you complete it, the grade you get will be added to your overall grade using the ratio 1:10.

  In other words, it's only worth doing this if you think your performance in this class so far was seriously below what you're capable of.