Recent Advancement
In
Chinese Lexical Semantics

Proceeding of 5th Chinese Lexical Semantics Workshop (CLSW-5)

14-16 June, 2004, Singapore

Edited by
Ji Dong Hong, Lua Kim Teng and Wang Hui

Published by COLIPS Publication  ISBN 981-05-1038-1
5th Chinese Lexical Semantics Workshop (CLSW-5)

Workshop Chair
Cheng Chin-Chuan Academia Sinica

Organizing Committee
Lua Kim Teng (Chair) COLIPS
Wang Hui National University of Singapore
Liang Yuan City University of Hong Kong
Li Tangqiu Xiamen University
Tang Li Institute for Infocomm Research
Zhang Min Institute for Infocomm Research

Program Committee
Ji Donghong (Chair) Institute for Infocomm Research
Chen Ping University of Queensland
Cheng Chin-Chuan Academia Sinica
Hilary Chappell La Trobe University
Huang Chu-ren Academia Sinica
Pan Haihua City University of Hong Kong
Shi Xiaodong Xiamen University
Su Xinchun Xiamen University
Benjamin Tsou City University of Hong Kong
Yu Shiwen Peking University
Forward

Chin-Chuan Cheng
Academia Sinica

We felt it was time in 2000 to take a concerted action to work on Chinese lexical semantics. The study of word senses in traditional discipline of Xungu appeared to be done piecemeal. The truth-theoretic model of proposition looked illusive at times. Colleagues working on natural language processing demanded a better dictionary for word disambiguation. Few theoretical claims about human manipulation of senses were available. We therefore organized a workshop on lexical semantics to discuss these issues and others at the City University of Hong Kong four years ago. The one-day gathering was fairly informal. But we had fun knowing each of the score of colleagues from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Mainland China, and the United States. We did not call it “First Chinese Lexical Semantics Workshop”. We simply called it a lexical semantics workshop without knowing its consequences.

Somehow the gathering in Hong Kong made Professor Yu Shiwen of Beijing University happy. He should be because he had worked on semantics for years. In 2001 he invited more people to the meeting with the title of “Second Workshop on Chinese Lexical Semantics”. The Beijing meeting was enthusiastically followed by the “Third Workshop” in Taipei. Professor Huang Chu-ren was energetic enough to set up the mechanism of abstract submission and evaluation. Some submissions had to be left out because of a large number of excellent papers. The fourth workshop returned to the City University of Hong Kong in 2003. We were not daunted by SARS. Although trip restrictions made us stay home, our papers got exchanged and commented on via the internet. We received hundreds of comments, perhaps more than we would in a face to face conference.

It is now 2004. I am pleased to see the workshop fully alive in its fifth year of existence. Our hosts, Drs. Ji Donghong and Lua Kim Teng have kindly accepted our imposition and aptly made arrangements for us to see each other face to face here in Singapore. We are grateful to them for the arrangements. We are also grateful to them for gathering papers in this volume for discussion. I am sure during the workshop we will move away from piecemeal studies of words. We will be a step closer to theoretical generalizations about human cognition of words.