

Root-Stem Approach in General Analyzer System for Arabic Language (RSGAS)



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ABSTRACT

Many application programs require knowledge from the user. In such programs, number of problems may occur. Problems related to natural language understanding such as; typos, duplication, similarity, and inconsistent knowledge. So, the analysis of text is very important in such programs. A previous work was done to solve problems of natural language understanding. That work build Arabic analyzer and merge it with a shell hybrid system. This work attempts to build a general Arabic Analyzer system, so that it could be merged with other programs to solve the natural language understanding problems. This work attempts to correct the previous Arabic analyzer, so its dictionary will be smaller. Morphology in this work merges root-based with stem-based approach. This merging forces this work because it gains the advantages of the two approaches. Root-based approach gives the advantage of smaller size. Stem-based approach gives the advantage of passing the problem of irregular cases. This work is compared with other two valued techniques. Results of the comparison show that this work has a lot of advantages over the previous techniques.

Introduction

It becomes necessary to provide text analyzer system, which has ability to be merged with application programs that need knowledge from the user. Because of problems that may occur during receiving of knowledge. Knowledge may be wrong due to; typos, inconsistent with another received knowledge, or it may be duplicated knowledge [1, 2].

This work attempts to build an Arabic analyzer system, which has the ability to be merged with systems that acquire knowledge from external user. One example of such systems is shell systems. Shell system acquires knowledge from external user, and it acquires problems from another external user. In an Arabic expert system

shell, the main components of shell system are merged with technique for Arabic analyzer. Shell system has the same components of an expert system except the knowledge base [1, 2, 3].

Arabic language is a highly inflected language and has a complex morphological structure. Stemming is one of many tools used for solving Arabic morphological problems [4, 5, 6]. Previous researches proved that light stemming is effective for Arabic language [1, 7].

There are few attempts to build an Arabic analyzer. Haidar Moukdad (2006)[8], he used rules of Arabic language in the field of information retrieval. His paper compares the effects of stemming and root retrieval in Arabic information retrieval through an exploratory study of the handling of Arabic words by an English-language search engine (ELSE). The results of the experiments show that more effective retrieval can be accomplished through stemming, and that it is

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possible to adapt an ELSE to be used with Arabic without the need to develop root-retrieval features.

In two previous works, attempts to build Arabic analyzer system had been made. The two previous works used Arabic morphology in two different methods. Each one of the two previous works embeds different strategy of Arabic morphology. ADESS is a root-based Arabic analyzer system (2010) [9]. It applies the classical Arabic morphological rules. It uses the grammar of deriving verbs in different formulas, and the grammar of deriving nouns from verbs. KISB is a stem-based Arabic analyzer system (2012) [1]. The result of comparison between the two Arabic analyzers shows that KISB Arabic analyzer is professional in passing irregular cases in Arabic language, but its dictionary needs more and more size in comparison with ADESS.

This paper uses strategy merges between root-based and stem based approaches to build the Arabic analyzer system. This work (RSGAS) forces Arabic analyzer system. It provides the advantages of both stem-based and root-based approaches. The results of comparison between the three Arabic analyzer systems ADESS, KISB, and RSGAS will be shown later in this paper.

The Proposed System

Root-Stem approach in General Analyzer System for Arabic language (RSGAS). It consists of five main modules (as illustrated in figure 1). Each module performs a specific task; more explanation about each module is given.

1. System Interface Module

System interface module performs the task of communication between RSGAS Arabic analyzer and application program. It receives Arabic phrases (sentences) from the user of the application program.

System interface module interacts with application program via both external user and database. The received Arabic phrase must be analyzed. Then the analyzed phrase posted to database. During analyzing time, problems may occur. Typos cause problems. When there is any unknown word, this module has to tell the user, and it gives him list of suggestions to choose the best suited action. Other problems occur because of inconsistency. An Arabic phrase may be; matched, closed in meaning, or inconsistent to another existing one. This module discovers that by its interaction with

the database. So it must tell the user to decide the best suited action.

Inside the analyzer, system interface module interacts with the word analysis, dictionary, and meaning modules. Interface module performs the task of phrase (sentence) analysis. The following steps describe briefly “phrase analysis process” and the tasks of system interface module.

Step1/ decomposing and filtering: system interface module decomposes the input phrase into words. Then removes all stop words as well as noise words, via its interaction with the dictionary module. But a checking is required before removing stop words. If there is a stop word refers to negation then turn on the negation flag of this phrase. Then it checks the synonym file to replace the remained words with their synonyms if found.

Step2/ Word analysis: Now, interface module sends each word to the word analysis module then receives the root of word as a feedback. In case of error, feedback will contain list of suggestions to solve the problem.

Step3/ Phrase meaning: When the input phrase is ready with its roots, it will be send to the meaning module, in which any similarity between phrases will be discovered.

Step4/ Learning antonymous phrases: Now check if there is word stored in the antonym file. If so, add a pointer to this phrase.

2. Dictionary module

RSGAS design of dictionary agrees with KISB dictionary in its main structure. It has a separate dictionary for each domain; variable part. And all domains associated with a part of dictionary called constant part.

As found in KISB, general files are in the constant part (stop-word negation file, other stop-word file, affixes file and other files needed for analysis). The idea of the constant part is to isolate the words that are necessary for all domains of knowledge bases. It means storing them only one time instead of repeating them for all domains. The variable part at RSGAS dictionary is decomposed into domains. Each domain has dictionary. The idea of decomposing the dictionary is to limit the range of search during word analysis, because of the huge amount of words in Arabic language. Each

dictionary contains; root file, stem file, noun file, synonym file, antonym file and noise file. RSGAS dictionary differs from KISB dictionary in few points. These points ensure enhancement of system performance. In constant part; it decomposes the stop-words file into two files; negation stop-word file, others stop-word file. In variable part; it decides to use the property of antonym words. This property helps in forcing the work of meaning module. So the antonym words file is used to store each word with its antonym. Each one of the two words is linked to list. The list contains pointers to all phrases that contain this word. At first this list must be empty. During building the knowledge base, RSGAS will learn and fill the contents of the list. This will be done by meaning module.

Arabic, as a member of the Semitic Languages Family, suffers from huge number of compound words, which result in high out-of-vocabulary (OOV) when using finite-sized lexicons. It contains words that are highly inflected and derived and therefore needs special techniques and algorithms for solving its morphological problems [9]. It is difficult or impossible to provide technique cover all cases of morphological problems. Because there are many irregular cases, RSGAS dictionary provides stems only for solving problem of irregular cases. It does not save stems that could be analyzed by morphology technique. So it saves roots for all domain words, and saves stems of irregular cases. This will decrease dictionary size in comparison with KISB.

When a database has to interact with RSGAS; the knowledge base is desired to be decomposed into domains. RSGAS provides the ability of ordering knowledge bases in two levels of domains. First there are domains, and inside each domain there are specific domains. For each specific domain, a number of knowledge bases could belong.

3. Morphological Rules Module

RSGAS morphological rules module provides classical Arabic morphological rules (grammar). There are many morphological rules such as: the rules that is used in the derivation of the verbs in different formulas (verbs tenses), and rules that is used in the derivation of the nouns from verbs. In other word, rules of derivations means, rules of adding infixes for roots, in order to generate measures. Figure 2 shows RSGAS measures of

derivations. In figure 2 verbs are showed in past tense. Each verb could be formulated in different tenses. Figure 3 describe the rule of verbs tenses.

In addition to rules of derivations (infixes), there are rules of affixes (prefixes & suffixes). Adding infixes to root generates stem. Prefixes and/or suffixes may be attached to stems. So the form of word will be; prefix, followed by stem, then followed by suffix. Figure 2 and 3 show measures of all stems in Arabic language. The stem may be noun or verb. List of prefixes and suffixes that attached to verbs differs from others that attached to nouns. RSGAS depends on lists of prefixes and suffixes that are mentioned in details in KISB [1].

4. Word Analysis Module

Word analysis module merges between Arabic morphological analysis (root-based approach) in ADESS and stem-based approach in KISB. It controls the task of word analysis in RSGAS. It interacts with interface module, from which it receives the source word to be analyzed. Then the root of the analyzed word will be send back. If there is error in source word, then word analysis module will send back the source word with list of suggestions. That is because word analysis module includes good spellchecker routine in order to solve the problem of typos.

Word analysis module interacts with the two modules; dictionary and morphological rules. This interaction gives it the ability of analyzing Arabic words. Each source word is converted into root depending on the morphological rules then it must be found in the dictionary, to be sure that the source word is right word according to the specified domain. Word analysis module has the ability of learning new words and adding them to the dictionary.

The steps of word analysis are the following:

Step1/ Affix-1: This step removes prefixes and suffixes from the source word. This process depends on options of affixes provided by morphological rules module. The result of this step is the stem.

Step2/ Stemming: Now, the word may be one of the irregular stems that have been saved in the dictionary. If it is so, take its root from the dictionary.

Step3/ Affix-2: This step removes infixes. It applies rules of measures that provided by morphological rules module. It determines infixes depending on measures. Now the root word is ready. It

means that the source word is right word belong to the specified domain dictionary.

Step4/ Error checking: If the root could not be found, in this case two options are possible: First is typos, and second if it is a right word but it is not found in the dictionary. Typos problem is solved by spellchecker routine, list of right words will be generated. The problem of missed word is solved by the ability of learning new words. List of right words will be sent to external user, to choose one of them. Or, he can say that the source word is right, at this time word analysis module knows that this word must be added to the dictionary.

5. Meaning Module:

RSGAS meaning module is necessary for discovering inconsistency. It interacts with system interface module, which represents the intermediate module between it and the knowledge bases that stored in the database (at the application program).

Knowledge bases that are acquired from external user may contain many mistakes. When knowledge base is huge, more than one user may be needed for entering rules. Rules may be duplicated, or one rule may be inconsistent with another rule. So, meaning module is needed to perform the task of checking similarity ratio between two Arabic phrases (sentences). To perform this task, meaning module needs interaction with the dictionary module. This interaction is connected via system interface module.

Meaning module works in two directions. First direction studies data on dictionary. It performs dictionary refinement process. While the second direction studies the received phrase. Dictionary refinement process includes considering data stored in dictionary. Then try to inference new facts. Figure 4 explain refinement process. At the second direction; when it works on the received phrase, new data will be generated and added to dictionary. It generates links from each word in the antonym file to any phrase that contains it.

This module receives Arabic phrase (sentence) as a list of root words. It provides exchanger routine to replace words; depending on meaning, then check whether the new phrase is similar to another existing one. The following steps describe what will be happen to any received phrase.

Step1/ Synonym: This step checks the received root words to replace synonyms; depending on synonym file that is saved in the dictionary module.

Step2/ Antonymous: This step checks if the received words include antonym. Then turn on the antonymous flag, and point to the antonymous words.

Step3/ Duplication: Now, compute the similarity rate (Sr) between this phrase and others that are stored. When Sr is more than 60%, the two phrases may be the same.

$Sr = N2/N1 * 100$, where N1 is number of words (roots) in phrase, N2 is number of matched words.

Meaning module has to prevent the duplication of a phrase in one rule. Also it has to prevent the duplication of rules.

Meaning module recognizes the antonym words in the phrase. Now, RSGAS can discover any two antonymous phrases. So it can make inferences about the following:

- If there are two antonymous phrases with different negation flags then they are the same.
- Prevent any two antonymous phrases at the same rule.
- When any phrase is proved, the antonymous phrase must be impossible.

Results and Discussions

This work needs real KB and real dictionary, because it is necessary to test its behavior and checking its rightness. It is good idea to use the Abdominal Pain KB, which is provided by ADESS [9]. First, Medicine-Domain Dictionary has been built and provided to RSGAS (Appendix A). The older versions of Medicine-Domain Dictionary were provided to ADESS and KISB. Each new version is different from the previous in a number of points. That is because each system has its own structure of dictionary which is different from others.

Now, we have three versions of Medicine-Domain Dictionary, and two previous versions of Abdominal Pain KB, if we know that the knowledge base was constructed using ADESS [9] and KISB [1]. This work could not be used to construct any KB unless merging it with external application program to provide the KB and hold it. So, that will be next work at future time. Real Arabic sentences and phrases from the Abdominal Pain KB were analyzed in this system. To study the behavior

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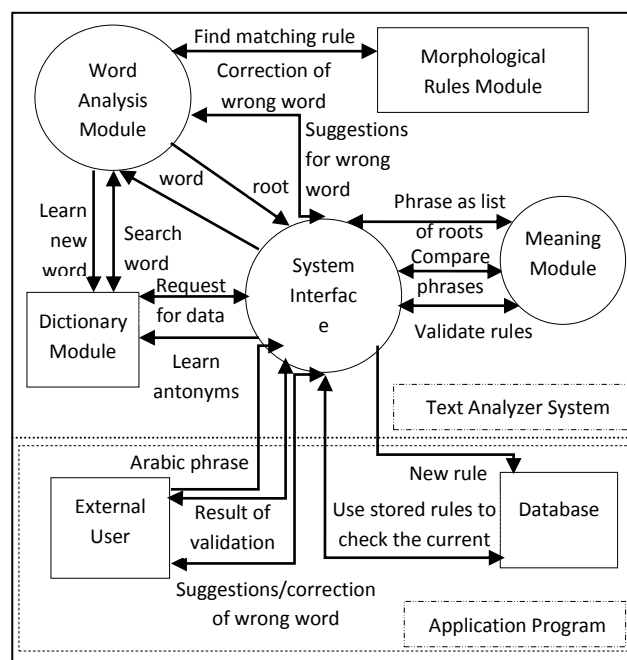


Figure 1. RSGAS architecture.

Roots of words in Arabic language are either "فعل" or "فعلل"

Measures of verbs derived from "فعل":

فعل، فاعل، فعل، انفعال، افتعل، افعَل، تفعَل، تفاعل، استتعل، افوعول، افعال.

Measures of verbs derived from "فعلل":

تفعَل، افعَلل، افعَلل.

Measures of nouns derived from verbs:

فعالة، فعال، فاعل، فاعلن، فعول، فعلة، فعلل، فعلة، فعلة، فعلة، فعال، افعلة، تفعيل، تفعلة، مفاعلة، انفعال، افعال، افعالل، استفعال، تفاعل، تفاعل، فاعل، افعال، مفعول، فعال، مفعيل، فاعول، فاعلة، فعالة، فعلى، مفعل، مفعلة، مفعال، متفاعل، مفعَل، فعلى، تفعَل، متفعَل، فعلاء، مفاعيل، مستفعل.

Figure 2. Arabic Morphological Grammar.

تحت	ثدي	جبر	حرقف	ردية	ستيرو يد	سونار	سوسر	غازات	فايروس
فترة	لفترة	ولفترة	يوجد	موجود	موجود	وموجود	وموجود	ويوجد	توجد
وشكل	الشكل	كشف	الكشف	يكشف	والكتف ف	تناول	وتناول	يتناول	ويتناول
يشعر	ويشعر	حاجة	جهة	الجهة	والجهة	جهات	الجهة	منطقة	
مباشر = حال = حالا	وصل = مز دام = بقي	شد = قسا = قوا = فرط = كبر	عند = أثناء = خلال	زال = ذهب = خفي	كل = تام = جميع	خمر = كحول	صحيح = صار	غثق = دكن	فجا = سرع
X سهل صعب	كتر X قل	X كسل نشط	كمل X نقص	وسع X ضاق	غثق X فتح	X مسك سهل	بنا X نهى	بعد X قبل	X جاع شبع

قولون	كارت	كحول	كرون	لوب	مالوري	هيموغلا وبين	ويس
وتوجد	وجود	يوجد	جنس	العرض	المري ض	مريض	مرض
يتناول	مادة	ومادة	علامة	علامات	العلامة	العلامات	مثلاً
ومنطقة	بمنطقة	بالمنطقة	درجة	ودرجة	أحد	يكون	خاصة
خرج = برز	جف = إستسقاء	مسك = قبض	رجل = ذکر	خبث = خطر	نحف = ضعف		
X نكر انث	X خف قوا	X خف ثقل	X خفي ظهر	X زاد قل	يسر X		

طريقة الجذر - الجذع في نظام المحلل العام للغة العربية

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الخلاصة

تتطلب العديد من البرامج التطبيقية المعرفة من المستخدم. في مثل هذه البرامج، قد تحدث عدد من المشاكل. المشاكل ذات الصلة مع فهم اللغة الطبيعية مثل؛ الأخطاء المطبعية، والتكرار، والتشابه، والمعرفة غير المتناسقة. لذا، فإن تحليل النص مهم جداً في مثل هذه البرامج. تم إنجاز عمل سابق لحل مشاكل فهم اللغة الطبيعية. ذلك العمل بنى محلل عربي ودمجه مع نظام قشرة هجين. هذا العمل يحاول بناء نظام محلل عربي عام، بحيث يمكن دمجه مع برامج أخرى لحل مشاكل فهم اللغة الطبيعية. هذا العمل يحاول تصحيح محلل العربية السابق، لذلك سوف يكون له قاموس أصغر. الصغر في هذا العمل يدمج المستندة إلى الجذر مع النهج القائم على الجذعية. هذا الدمج يقوي هذا العمل لأنه يريح مزاي النهجين. النهج القائم على الجذر يعطي ميزة الحجم الأصغر. النهج القائم على الجذعية يعطي ميزة اجتياز مشكلة الحالات غير النظامية. تتم مقارنة هذا العمل مع اثنين من التقنيات الأخرى المقيمة سابقاً. نتائج المقارنة تبين أن هذا العمل لديه الكثير من المزايا على التقنيات السابقة.