

knowledge includes information regarding the relative sizes of toy boxes, writing implements, and play pens.

Despite the earlier warnings about the impossibility of automatic sense resolution without the characterization of world knowledge, there is a resurgence of interest in automatic sense identification, most notably with the aid of machine readable dictionaries and statistical analyses of large textual corpora (Ide & Veronis, 1998).

Different attempts to disambiguate senses in computational linguistics have taken place starting with a theory of semantic interpretation that posits structures that are contained in the mental lexicon, yet independent of world knowledge (Katz & Fodor, 1963). In the late 1980s, machine-readable dictionaries (MRDs) were proposed for sense disambiguation (Lesk, 1986). Lesk devised a simple method to link dictionary definitions if they share words in common. Finally, corpus-based disambiguation methods have been developed. A problematic aspect of this type of corpus-based approach is what Gale et al. (1992) call “the knowledge acquisition bottleneck”. In order to get materials for training a program on senses of a particular polysemous word, the corpus of contexts containing that word has to be manually partitioned into its different senses. Apart from being an assiduous task, the work put into manual tagging does not scale up, i.e. the partitioning required for one word will be of no use in disambiguating any other word and will not decrease the amount of manual effort required.

Homonyms, on the other hand, are different words with the same form in which dictionaries distinguish them by assigning to them distinctive numbers. For example, *bank* (1), one of whose meaning is “financial institution”, and *bank* (2), one of whose meaning is “sloping side of the river”, are generally regarded as