concentrated on the role of prior discourse, and has developed a procedure that handles a wide variety of noun phrase types, including pronouns and missing noun phrases, using a focusing algorithm based on surface syntactic structure (Dahl, submitted for publication). NYU, as part of its work on the domain model, has developed a procedure that can identify a component in the model from any of the noun phrases that can name that component (Ksiezyk and Grishman, submitted for publication). After further development, these procedures will be integrated into a comprehensive noun phrase semantic analyzer.

4.5.3. TIME ANALYSIS (SDC)

SDC has started to develop a module to process time information. Sources of time information include verb tense, adverbial time expressions, prepositional phrases, co-ordinate and subordinate conjunctions. These are all mapped into a small set of predicates expressing a partial time ordering among the states and events in the message.

4.6. DOMAIN MODEL (NYU)

The domain model captures the detailed information about the general class of equipment, and about the specific pieces of equipment involved in the messages; this information is needed in order to fully understand the messages. The model integrates part/whole information, type/instance links, and functional information about the various components (Ksiezyk and Grishman, submitted for publication).

The knowledge base performs several functions:

• It provides the domain-specific constraints needed for the semantics to select the correct arguments for a predicate, so that modifiers are correctly attached to noun phrases.
• It enables noun phrase semantics to identify the correct referent for a phrase.
• It provides the prototype information structures which are instantiated in order to record the information in a particular message.
• It provides the information on equipment structure and function used by the discourse rules in establishing plausible causal and enabling relationships among the sentences. These relationships, once established, can serve to resolve some semantic ambiguities. They can also supplement the time information extracted during semantic analysis and thus clarify temporal relations among the sentences.

4.8. DIAGNOSTICS (NYU)

The diagnostic procedures are intended to localize the cause of failure of the analysis and provide meaningful feedback when some domain-specific constraint has been violated. We are initially concentrating on violations of local (selectional) constraints, and have built a small component for diagnosing such violations and suggesting acceptable sentence forms; later work will study more global discourse constraints.

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Kuwait University is currently compiling an extensive bibliography in the areas of Computational Linguistics and Artificial Intelligence. The bibliography is meant to be of value particularly to universities and research centers that, like KU, are planning to start research and teaching in these areas. It will assist them to base their planning on state-of-the-art information in the field and to be aware of available resources.

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