Announcing Prague Czech-English Dependency Treebank 2.0

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Abstract

We introduce a substantial update of the Prague Czech-English Dependency Treebank, a parallel corpus manually annotated at the deep syntactic layer of linguistic representation. The English part consists of the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) section of the Penn Treebank. The Czech part was translated from the English source sentence by sentence. This paper gives a high level overview of the underlying linguistic theory (the so-called tectogrammatical annotation) with some details of the most important features like valency annotation, ellipsis reconstruction or coreference.

Keywords: parallel corpus, parallel treebank, deep syntactic treebank

1. Introduction

The Prague Czech-English Dependency Treebank 2.0 (PCEDT 2.0) is a major update of the Prague Czech-English Dependency Treebank 1.0 (Cuřín et al., 2004; Čmejrek et al., 2004). It brings about a manually parsed Czech-English parallel corpus of 1.2 million running words in almost 50,000 sentences for each language. The English part contains the entire Penn Treebank–Wall Street Journal (WSJ) Section (Linguistic Data Consortium, 1999). The Czech part comprises Czech translations of all the Penn Treebank-WSJ texts. The corpus is 1:1 sentence-aligned because the translation preserved sentence boundaries. An additional automatic alignment on the content-word level is part of this release, too. The original Penn Treebank-like file structure (25 sections, each containing up to one hundred files) has been preserved.

Each language part is enhanced with a comprehensive manual linguistic annotation in the PDT 2.0 style (Hajič, 2004; Hajič et al., 2006). The main features of this annotation style are:

- dependency structures of content words and coordinating conjunctions (function words are attached as their attribute values),
- semantic labeling of content words and coordinating conjunctions,
- argument structure (including an argument structure lexicon for each language),
- ellipsis and anaphora resolution.

The chosen annotation style is called tectogrammatical annotation and it constitutes the tectogrammatical layer (t-layer) in the corpus. For more details see below. PCEDT 2.0 will be distributed by the Linguistic Data Consortium (LDC). More details, including a sample of the data visualized in the web browser are available on the PCEDT 2.0 web site:

http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/pcedt2.0/

This paper introduces the whole treebank and gives a high-level overview of the most important features. The complete documentation of the theory and data is available at the PCEDT web site or the distribution DVD.

In the rest of this section, we discuss key properties of PCEDT 2.0. Section 2. summarizes the layers of annotation. In Sections 3., 4., and 5., we focus on the highlights of the treebanks: the tectogrammatical layer, valency and coreference resolution, respectively.

1.1. Czech annotation

Sentences of the Czech translation were automatically morphologically annotated and parsed into surface-syntax dependency trees in the PDT 2.0 style (Hajič, 2004; Hajič et al., 2006). The main features of this annotation style are:

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1.1. Czech annotation

Sentences of the Czech translation were automatically morphologically annotated and parsed into surface-syntax dependency trees in the PDT 2.0 annotation style. This annotation style is sometimes called analytical annotation; it constitutes the analytical layer (a-layer) of the corpus. A sample of 2,000 sentences was manually annotated on the analytical layer.

The manual tectogrammatical (deep-syntax) annotation was built as a separate layer above the automatic analytical (surface-syntax) parse.

1.2. English annotation

The resulting manual tectogrammatical annotation was built above an automatic transformation of the original phrase-structures of the Penn Treebank into surface dependency (analytical) representations, using the following additional linguistic information from other sources:

- PropBank (Palmer et al., 2004) including the VerbNet data.

- NomBank (Meyers et al., 2004),

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flat noun phrase structures (by courtesy of Vadas and Curran (2007)),

- BBN Pronoun Coreference and Entity Type Corpus (LDC2005T33).

For each sentence, the original Penn Treebank phrase structure tree is preserved in this corpus and can be viewed along with the analytical and the tectogrammatical representations.

1.3. Data Size

Table 1 reports the exact number of sentences and dependency tree nodes at each of the annotation layers (see Section 2).

|               | Czech          | English        |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sentences     | 49,208         |                |
| a-nodes (auto) | 1,151,150      | 1,173,766      |
| t-nodes (man)  | 931,846         | 838,212        |

Table 1: Number of sentences and nodes in PCEDT 2.0.

1.4. Alignment

PCEDT 2.0 is an automatically word-aligned parallel corpus. The alignment is directed from the English part to the Czech part, for each layer separately.

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Alignment Links |               |
| a-layer       | 1,214,441     |
| t-layer       | 727,415       |

Table 2: Number of alignment links in PCEDT 2.0.

The a-layer was aligned using GIZA++ (Och and Ney, 2000). As usual, we applied the tool in both directions and included the intersection of the two alignments as well as a popular symmetrization heuristic (grow-diag-final-and). The alignment at the t-layer was obtained by projecting the alignments from the a-layer and automatically adding alignments between non-aligned nodes using a few rules.

2. Layers of Annotation

The PDT 2.0-style annotation contains multiple layers as described below: w-layer, m-layer, a-layer, and t-layer. The English part also contains the original Penn Treebank annotation, which we call p-layer (phrase-structure layer). Figure 1 shows the visualization of a phrase-structure tree in TrEd, the browser and editor of PCEDT 2.0.

2.1. w-layer

The bottom-most layer ("word" layer) is the tokenized plain text, where each token has obtained its unique ID. This layer is fully integrated in the next upper layer, the m-layer.

2.2. m-layer

This is the morphological layer. The tokens are automatically part-of-speech tagged and lemmatized. From this point on, we can regard the tokens as linearly ordered nodes with their respective IDs, POS-tags and lemmas. We distinguish among m-nodes, a-nodes and t-nodes occurring on the respective layers. In the treebank, the m-layer is not visualized separately but as a part of the analytical layer.

2.3. a-layer

The a-layer (analytical layer) represents the surface syntax. The text is parsed: the so far linearly ordered m-nodes are organized into dependency trees. There is a one-to-one correspondence between the m-nodes and the a-nodes. The number of a-nodes in Table 1 can thus be also interpreted as the number of tokens in the treebank.

The syntactic dependencies are provided with labels (called afuns) that carry the usual syntactic information; e.g. "subject", "attribute", "predicate complement".

Figure 2 presents the visualization of an analytical sentence representation in TrEd.

2.4. t-layer

The topmost–tectogrammatical–layer is a linguistic representation that combines syntax and, to a certain extent, semantics, in the form of semantic labeling, anaphora resolution and argument structure description based on a valency lexicon. This representation draws on the framework of the Functional Generative Description (Sgall et al., 1986). The original tectogrammatical language representation in the theoretical works of the 1960s was developed mainly with rule-based text generation in mind. This annotated corpus follows the essential ideas of this formal language description, but, at the same time, it is designed to serve as training data in statistical machine learning and suits both for text generation and for text analysis. Compared to the monumental Prague Dependency Treebank 2.0, the tectogrammatical annotation in PCEDT 2.0 is slightly simplified and it does not contain any topic-focus articulation information for either language.
Figure 2: A sample parallel sentence at the a-layer. The dashed grey arrows indicate automatic word alignment.

Figure 3 shows a tectogrammatical sentence representation in TrEd.

One of the ideas with the tectogrammatical representation is that it emphasizes the similarities between different languages and moderates the differences. The tectogrammatical representations of a sentence in a source language and its translation to a target language are more similar than their analytical representations, since many languag-specific features are cleared away from the tree structure into the inner structure of the nodes. This increased similarity can be observed even in our sample sentence (Figures 2 and 3).

The most essential differences between the analytical layer and the tectogrammatical layer are:

- Of tokens realized in the text, only content words and coordinating conjunctions are represented as nodes in the tree. The linguistic information contributed by function words is stored in the inner structure of the node.
- Ellipsis is restored by “generated nodes”. These generated nodes are either copies of other nodes present in the text or purely artificial nodes with specific lemmas, see also Section 3.3.1.
- All occurrences of verbs are assigned a frame in the valency lexicon (Section 4.). They may get generated nodes as arguments to comply with the number and types of the valency slots prescribed by the lexicon.
- Not only verb arguments, but all tectogrammatical nodes get semantic labels (functors). The set of functors is completely different from the set of afuns.
- Anaphora and coreference are resolved, even among the generated nodes, see Section 5.
- Generally, the tectogrammatical representation contains information on the topic-focus articulation. Due to technical reasons, PCEDT 2.0 does not contain this annotation.

3. Key features of t-layer

This section covers the most important features of t-layer: nodes, edges, and the most interesting node attributes: t-lemmas, functors, grammatemes and formemes. More details are available in the introductory documentation\(^2\) or the annotation manuals as distributed with PCEDT.

3.1. Types of nodes

The tectogrammatical representation uses eight types of nodes. They differ in their function as well as in their inner structure (attribute values). Here we describe only the most important node types.

Complex nodes and atomic nodes represent the most of regular words occurring in the text, except conjunctions and punctuation as roots of paratactic constructions.

Complex nodes are called “complex”, since they have the most complex inner structure. They represent mostly autosemantic words with their numerous grammatical categories. These categories are represented by grammatemes (e.g. “number”, “tense” and “semantic part of speech”). Atomic nodes represent the negation particle (t-lemma #Neg) and expressions such as probably, fortunately and however, which belong to what Quirk et al. (2004) call disjunctions and (in a few cases) conjuncts.

Quasi-complex nodes are used to represented generated nodes, i.e. t-nodes with no direct counterpart on the surface representation of the sentence.

Paratactic structure root nodes represent coordinating conjunctions (and sometimes punctuation, e.g. the comma in the apposition Martin, my best friend). The vast majority of paratactic structure root nodes represent real tokens occurring in the text (e.g. and; for punctuation, a substitute t-lemma is used, e.g. #Comma and #Bracket).

3.2. Types of edges

Each t-tree consists of nodes and edges. The edges themselves bear no description, but we can think of the tree as having several different types of edges according to the node type of the daughter node in the given relation.

\(^2\)http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/pcedt2.0/en/introduction.html
The word "besides" modifies the entire coordination. Please note that the preposition "besides", being a function word, is not represented by its own t-node, but it is replicated as an attribute inside each member of the coordination, interpreting the text as "Besides Cray and besides Barnum."

The most common relation between two nodes is the dependency relation between a governing node and its modifier, e.g. the relation between "yellow" and "shoe" in a "yellow shoe." Some edges in the treebank, however, are non-dependency edges. They occur in the following cases:

- paratactic constructions,
- list structures,
- phrasemes and light verb constructions and some other complex predicates,
- rhematizers, disjuncts, all sorts of sentential particles,
- linguistic root of the sentence and the technical root of the sentence.

The representation of paratactic structures distinguishes between shared modifiers and modifiers extending just one of the members. All members of the paratactic structure have the attribute value is_member set to "1." Modifiers of paratactic structures (the ones that are perceived as modifying each member of the structure or the structure as a whole) are also governed by the paratactic root structure node, but lack the is_member attribute. See Figure 4 for an example. Note that also the edge between the paratactic structure root node and its mother node is a non-dependency edge. The same goes for the edge between the root of a list structure and its mother node, for phrasemes or nominal parts of light verb constructions and a few other cases.

### 3.3. Node attributes

Depending on the node type, a t-node has a multitude of attributes. Here we describe the most interesting ones, two of which contain manually annotated values for both English and Czech: t-lemma and functor.

#### 3.3.1. Tectogrammatical lemma

The tectogrammatical lemma of a node (further t-lemma) is one of the attributes of the node in a tectogrammatical tree (the tLemma attribute). The value of the tLemma attribute is either the node’s lexical value (i.e. its basic form, represented as a sequence of graphemes), or an “artificial” value (the so called t-lemma substitute) beginning with a hash (“#”). Here are the most important cases where t-lemma substitutes are assigned:

- Personal and possessive pronouns: Nodes representing personal and possessive pronouns have the #PersPron t-lemma.
- Syntactic negation: A node representing syntactic negation (expressed by attaching the prefix ne- to a Czech verb and by the particle not or n’t in English) has the #Neg t-lemma. Other expressions of negation, such as no, none, neither or even hardly, never are neglected in both languages.
- Punctuation marks and other symbols: A punctuation mark is only represented by a t-node when it has a semantic interpretation similar to a content word.
- Ellipsis restoration: A few t-lemma substitutes are assigned to generated nodes that restore an element perceived as elided. They differ according to the type of ellipsis. The criteria for distinguishing these t-lemma substitutes are (roughly) whether or not the elided element has a coreferential antecedent in the text and which part of speech the restored node represents. Some examples are given in the following text.

The t-lemma substitutes #Gen, #ObLfm, #Unsp, #Cor and #Rcp are inserted in places of missing obligatory arguments of a verb (or, in the Czech annotation, in nouns with the deverbal suffixes -nì, -tì):

- #Gen is used for the so-called generic participant; e.g. Luis Nogales, 45 years old, has been elected to the board of this brewer. (Who elected Luis Nogales to the board?) This participant is either unknown in the text or means “anyone”, “anything” or “the one normally occurring in such situations”.
- #ObLfm stands for obligatory adverbials (which can be either generic or coreferential).
- #Unsp is an attempt to capture the subtle difference between purely generic arguments (“humans/things in general”) and a self-understood well-defined group, e.g. of clerks at a given office: These optional 1%-a-year increases to the steel quota program are built into the Bush administration’s steel-quota program to give its negotiators leverage with foreign steel suppliers to try to get them to withdraw subsidies and protectionism from their own steel industries. (Who builds the increases into the Bush administration’s steel-quota program? Most likely the Bush administration). Both #Gen and #Unsp restore an ellipsis. The t-lemma #Unsp was used only tentatively
(especially in the English data) and the interannotator agreement has never been measured on this task separately. The experience tells us that the annotators have troubles drawing a line between #Gen and #Unsp. The generic/underspecifying one and they in English are captured as regular arguments (one with the t-lemma “one” and the personal pronouns with #PersPron, which represents they e.g. in the following sentences: Two became one flesh, as they said at the marriage ceremony, but who could say that it would be so hard. and They say the way to a man’s heart is through his stomach.).

• #Cor is used e.g. for the argument of a controlled predicate that is missing due to grammatical reasons: Peter decided to leave (Peter leaves). It is generally used whenever the grammar makes the insertion of a real word impossible for the given position, but at the same time, if we were allowed to insert a word, we would be able to agree on picking just the right one from the context, since it is indicated by the grammar.

• #Rcp is used to insert a “missing” argument that is “hidden” in a reciprocal alternation. For instance, the verb kiss requires two arguments: Peter kisses Mary. This requirement is encoded in the valency lexicon. In a sentence like Peter and Mary kissed, the agent as well as the patient are in a coordination. According to the rules of the tectogrammatical representation, both (all) members must have the same label, if they are arguments (which they are here). Besides, in reciprocal constructions it is impossible to tell which argument is the agent and which is the patient. In this particular case, both Mary and Peter are marked as agents and a generated node with the t-lemma #Rcp is inserted to complete the obligatory patient slot.

The t-lemma substitutes #EmpVerb and #EmpNoun are inserted when a governing node to a modifier is perceived as missing. They substitute primitive concepts as have, be, go, thing, man. In the English data, both #EmpVerb and #EmpNoun have nodetype set to “complex”, while in the Czech data, #EmpNoun has nodetype “complex” because of the obligatory grammatical agreement of an adjectival modifier with the underspecified noun and #EmpVerb has nodetype “quasi complex” because of no obligatory agreement occurring in the data.

3.3.2. Function
Each dependency is labeled with a functor3. Simply speaking, the functor describes the syntactico-semantic relation of a node to its effective parent node (i.e. disregarding non-dependency edges, such as coordinations). The adverbal functors like TWHEN or LOC denote a number of temporal and spatial relations, as well as contingency. Another distinct class of functors are functors denoting the tightest valency complementations (participants) of verbs and nouns. These are: ACT, PAT, ADDR, ORIG, EFF and the noun-specific APP, MAT, AUTH, ID.

The English part of the treebank uses two functors that do not occur in the Czech part: NE and SM. NE is used in multiword expressions that are named entities. SM marks expressions such as in the aftermath of and in return for. Such expressions behave like prepositions, but, to an extent varying for each of them, the sequence “preposition – (determiner) – noun – preposition” can be interrupted e.g. by an adjective.

Some functors, however, do not quite fit the main definition and do not render the syntactico-semantic relation of a node to its effective parent node:

• functors used for the effective root nodes of independent clauses - these functors carry the information regarding the type of the clause (construction) and they also refer to the very fact that these clauses are independent: PRED, DENOM, VOCAT, PARTL, PAR

• functors used for paratactic structure root nodes - these express the type of the paratactic relation in question: ADVS, CONFR, CONJ, CONTRA, CSQ, DISJ, GRAD, REAS, APPS, OPER

• functors for the dependent parts of complex lexical units: CPHR, DPHR, CM

• the functor used for nodes representing foreign-language expressions: FPHR

• functors for atomic nodes: ATT, MOD, PREC, RHEM, INTF

3.3.3. Grammatemes
Grammatemes are mostly semantically oriented counterparts of morphological categories such as number, degree of comparison, or tense. Only nodes of the type “complex” possess grammatemes. The system of grammatemes preserves the cognitive information represented by morphological categories, which would otherwise get lost at the higher level of abstraction (when representing words with their lemmas).

Not all grammatemes are relevant for all parts of speech. The complex t-nodes were therefore divided into four groups according to which grammatemes are relevant for them. These groups are called semantic parts of speech and are the following: semantic nouns, semantic adjectives, semantic verbs and semantic adverbs. These groups are not identical with the “traditional” parts of speech. They reflect basic onomasiological categories of substance, quality, event and circumstance. The semantic part of speech is reflected by the attribute sempos.

The grammatemes have been inserted only automatically for English, using POS tags, information about auxiliary words, a list of pronouns, etc. Only a subset of grammatemes has been introduced so far.

3.3.4. Formemes
The formemes are a technical shortcut that facilitates searching the corpus across the tectogrammatical and the analytical layers, by specifying the query using tectogrammatical attributes only. A formeme can be regarded as a property of a t-node which specifies in which morphosyntactic form this t-node is realized in the surface sentence

3Technically, the functor is stored as an attribute of the daughter node.
Table 3: Statistics of valency annotation in PCEDT 2.0.

|             | Czech | English |
|-------------|-------|---------|
| Unique valency frames | 9,412 | 6,293   |
| Nodes with val. frame | 133,103 | 130,157 |
| Verb        | 117,520 | 130,129 |
| Noun        | 15,321  | 6       |
| Adj         | 225     | 5       |
| other       | 37      | 17      |

4.1. Mapping between Engvallex and PropBank

Engvallex, as distributed with PCEDT 2.0, contains a mapping to the current version of PropBank (the OntoNotes 4.0 release). Originally, the mapping was maintained manually. This manual mapping got lost with the latest substantial revision of PropBank. The current mapping was derived from the annotated data. The most recent PropBank has merged all syntactico-semantic alternations of a verb sense into one common frameset, while Engvallex does not reflect the alternations by any means and gives each occurring alternation a separate frame. Therefore the most typical situation is that several Engvallex frames map onto one and the same PropBank frameset. In such a case the mapping line contains the ID of the given PropBank frameset. A mapping of one Engvallex frame onto several PropBank framesets is also possible. When sentences annotated with one particular Engvallex frame were annotated with two or more different framesets, the mapping line displays them in descendant frequency order and indicates the number of annotated sentences with each.

Not surprisingly, the mapping between frames and framesets, and especially the mapping of the respective arguments on each other are in many verbs more complicated than 1:1. We store the mapping information in three files (see the documentation) with varying level of detail.

In Figure 7, the verb *swim* is divided into three frames. Two of them are mapped onto PropBank framesets. The absence of the mapping in the first frame has two possible reasons: either this Engvallex frame has not been assigned to any occurrence of the verb in the entire corpus, or the sentence in which this particular frame was assigned has not yet been annotated in PropBank (unlike the PCEDT annotation, the PropBank annotation does not cover the entire PennTreebank). When the mapping information is present, the frame-to-frameset mapping is located on a separate line below the list of frame-constituting valency slots; e.g. [swim-v.xml::swim.01::1]. This description means that this particular frame maps on the swim.01 frameset and that this happens once in the corpus. The third Engvallex frame maps onto the swim.01 frameset in two cases in the corpus. When there is a mapping between an Engvallex valency slot and a PropBank argument, it is listed in a square bracket following its name. The last digit is, again, the frequency of this particular mapping. Hence, the Actor of *swim* in the second frame maps...
5. Coreference

The coreference annotation in PCEDT 2.0 captures the so-called grammatical coreference and pronominal textual coreference.

Grammatical coreference comprises several subtypes of relations, which mainly differ in the nature of referring expressions (e.g. relative pronoun, reflexive pronoun). The common property is that they appear as a consequence of language-dependent grammatical rules. An example of a grammatical coreference link is in Figure 3.

On the other hand, the arguments of textual coreference are not realized by grammatical means alone, but also via context. The nodes along the coreference link are called anaphor (where the link leads from) and antecedent (where the link leads to, usually earlier in the sentence). Table 4 captures the counts of anaphors in the PCEDT 2.0 annotation. While the total number of anaphors in both languages is similar, Czech uses textual coreference more often. Using the automatic alignment of the t-layer, we see that about a third of anaphors are aligned to a node in the other language that also serves as an anaphor. In 60% of such cases, also the antecedents are mutually linked.

Table 5 provides detailed bilingual statistics on anaphors. We see that about 13k anaphors for both textual and grammatical coreference (separately) are linked with anaphors with the same coreference type in the other language. In 4k or 5k cases, the translation counterpart serves as anaphor of the other coreference type. This happens especially to the arguments of infinitive verbs that had to be translated as a finite subordinate clause.

Note that the numbers in a column or a row cannot be simply added because there are nodes that have several outgoing coreference links (of the same or different coreference types) and also because some nodes have more than one counterpart in the other language.

6. Conclusion

We have introduced Prague Czech-English Dependency Treebank 2.0, a corpus of almost 50k parallel sentences annotated manually at a deep-syntactic level of representation.

The manual annotation in both languages includes tree structure, node lemmas and edge labels, but also valency structure of verbs and textual and grammatical coreference. Further useful features such as Czech-English word alignment, detailed node attributes or the mapping of the valency frames to PropBank were constructed automatically.

7. Acknowledgment

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Anaphors with a grammatical link 27,802 38,390 66,192
Anaphors with a textual link 40,614 25,720 66,334
Anaphors with any link 68,416 64,110 132,526
Aligned Anaphors 25,158
Aligned Anaphors+Antecedents 14,991

Table 4: Statistics of nodes with outgoing coreference links in PCEDT 2.0.

| Unaligned No Coreference | Textual | Grammatical | Total |
|--------------------------|---------|-------------|-------|
| Unaligned                | -       | -           | 16,629| 7,857 | 24,486|
| No Coreference           | -       | -           | 6,583 | 3,285 | 9,868 |
| Textual                  | 6,561   | 2,454       | 12,601| 4,104 | 16,705|
| Grammatical              | 19,232  | 1,800       | 4,801 | 12,557| 17,357|
| Total                    | 25,793  | 4,254       | 17,402| 16,661| 132,526|

Table 5: Anaphors across languages.

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