

Datenbank-DIALOG: How to communicate with your database in German (and enjoy it)

Harald Trost, Ernst Buchberger

Austrian Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence (ÖFAI)
Schottengasse 3, A-1010 Vienna, Austria

Abstract

The paper discusses the requirements for practical natural language interfaces (NLI), claiming that acceptance is not only based on the linguistic capabilities of a system but on other features as well, most notably portability and ease of handling. It is shown how these features have been realised in Datenbank-DIALOG, a German language interface to relational databases. After a short glance on the linguistic capabilities of Datenbank-DIALOG we demonstrate our approach towards a portable and easy-to-handle system. Additionally, we show the dependability of the solutions on the design of the core system. The aspects mentioned have been rarely treated in the technical literature, furthermore it is their combination and interaction that makes Datenbank-DIALOG a suitable device for casual users of databases.

Note: The full version of this paper is no longer available by FTP. It has been published in *Interacting with Computers*, 2(3)367–381, 1990. In case of difficulties in obtaining this journal, feel free to contact the authors at ernst@ai.univie.ac.at.