

Steven Abney - The Digitization of Language

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Despite the name, computational linguistics has developed more as a branch of computer science than of linguistics, and the two fields have dramatically different ways of looking at the world and scientific inquiry. Nonetheless, there is an interesting convergence - and ripe potential for much deeper integration - in the area of language documentation and description. The goal of this envisioned hybrid field is "language digitization." It is language documentation that is meant, not for human consumption, but for machine consumption. It is a necessary prerequisite for a computational approach to general linguistics, a.k.a. Universal Grammar.