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Theory-driven and Corpus-driven Computational Linguistics

Computational linguistics and corpus linguistics are closely-related disciplines: they both exploit electronic corpora, extract various kinds of linguistic information from them, and make use of the same methods to acquire this information. Moreover, both were heavily affected by "paradigm shifts" from the prevailing empiricism of the 1950s, to rationalism, then back again with a revival of empirical methods in the 1990s. Computational linguistics deals with the formal modeling of natural language. The formal models can be used to draw conclusions about the structure and functioning of the human language system. They also form the basis of implemented systems for the analysis and generation of spoken or written language.