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Semantic Role Labeling of Implicit Arguments for Nominal Predicates

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Nominal predicates often carry implicit arguments. Recent work on semantic role labeling has focused on identifying arguments within the local context of a predicate; implicit arguments, however, have not been systematically examined. To address this limitation, we have manually annotated a corpus

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of implicit arguments for ten predicates from NomBank. Through analysis of this corpus, we find that implicit arguments add 71% to the argument structures that are present in NomBank. Using the corpus, we train a discriminative model that is able to identify implicit arguments with an F_1 score of 50%, significantly outperforming an informed baseline model. This article describes our investigation, explores a wide variety of features important for the task, and discusses future directions for work on implicit argument identification.

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