

HUMAINE Workshop « Theories and Models of Emotion », June 17-19, 2004

Work Group 1 - Synthesis

The Work Group interested in Conceptual and Terminological Clarifications met for the first time during the WP3 Workshop in Geneva.

There are at least two main reasons for the existence of such a Work Group:

1. HUMAINE is multi-disciplinary (e.g., Computer Science, Linguistics, Psychology, Philosophy, Neuroscience) - a conceptual clarification and a common terminology could be helpful.
2. HUMAINE is multi-cultural - the development of artificial emotion systems have to be adapted.

The proposed outcomes of the Work Group were:

1. Elaboration of operational definitions for various emotion-related categories – affect, emotion, attitudes, moods, affective personality, and affective stances, provide a basis for recommendations as to the specific attention to be given to each class within the network and the most appropriate contexts to study the forms of affective phenomena that are most relevant to HUMAINE's concerns.
2. Evaluation of the observed empirical frequency of different kinds of affective phenomena and the odds that they will occur in different contexts, determining the pertinence for the realization of multimodal interfaces in the real world. Synthesis of empirical evidence to date and check of the feasibility of a joint questionnaire study in the HUMAINE countries.
3. Linking the operational definitions for different kinds of affective phenomena agreed upon by the HUMAINE partners to lay concepts and verbal labels for different affects to allow ready transfer in both directions and determine areas of overlap and differences. Evaluating the feasibility of an empirical study for popular terms in the HUMAINE languages based on a systematic grid for comparison (facilitating the transfer of verbal emotion interfaces to different languages).

These outcomes could be linked to the following potential deliverables:

1. Documents concerning conceptual and operational definitions agreed upon in the consortium
2. Research documents with the results of comparative studies on frequencies of different affect states and their antecedent and response profiles

The discussion during the morning session focused on the first deliverable. The actual proposal is that this deliverable may include the following documents:

1. An extension of the design-feature approach

Emotions can be defined as episodes of massive, synchronized recruitment of mental and somatic resources allowing to adapt to or cope with a stimulus event subjectively appraised as being highly pertinent to the needs, goals, and values of the individuals (Scherer, 2004).

<i>Design Features</i>	<i>Intensity</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Synchro- nization</i>	<i>Event focus</i>	<i>Appraisal elicitation</i>	<i>Rapidity of change</i>	<i>Behavior Impact</i>
Types of Affect							
Emotions: <i>angry, sad, joyful, fearful, ashamed, proud, elated, desperate</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Moods: <i>cheerful, gloomy, irritable, listless, depressed, buoyant</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Interpersonal stances: <i>distant, cold, warm, supportive, contemptuous</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Preferences/Attitudes: <i>liking, loving, hating, valuing, desiring</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Affect dispositions: <i>nervous, anxious, reckless, morose, hostile</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Fig. 1 – Defining different types of affect: A design feature approach (Scherer, 2004).

In the table, the different types of affect are being defined according to a set of design features. The more important the feature to the definition of the affect, the larger the dot will be. Examples are given for each type of affect.

A possibility for the deliverable would be to use this design-feature approach in order to provide a matrix containing affective terms that are useful for HUMAINE.

2. Common elements with an ongoing book project

We also discussed possible links between the ongoing project of a book edited by Sander & Scherer, and the Deliverable. No decisions were made regarding this issue but everybody agreed that it seems to be a good opportunity for a joint effort.

3. The web-based Glossary

The most important part of the WG1 meeting consisted in discussing the Web-based Glossary. Considering that the glossary represents an important task for a small group, it was clear that we should focus on a *small number of working definitions*. This glossary will be neither an encyclopedia nor a thesaurus but will consist in a small number of important items to be defined.

In particular, it will distinguish between “emotions”, “concepts overlapping with emotion”, and “emotion-related processes”.

References:

Klaus R. Scherer (2004, March 31st). Theories and models of emotion. Presentation at the HUMAINE initial plenary meeting in DFKI, Saarbrücken, Germany. Report on initial plenary meeting can be download at <http://emotion-research.net/deliverables/>.