

# Automatic Creation of Explanations

What Makes a Good Explanation?

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## What's What?

*The term 'definition' is a misnomer. It implies that a word's meaning can be precisely (and 'definitively') isolated and pinned down.*

(The Oxford Guide to Practical Lexicography, p. 407)

## Can the Lexicographers Help?

- genus proximum and differentia specifica
- ostensive definition (pointing)
- "part of" definition
- full-sentence definition
- encyclopaedic definition
- definition by synonym
- definition by image
- using valency
- introductory phrases + other PoS

# What to Look For? I

- synonyms
- other-PoS-modifier
  - adjective modifier: nouns, (adverbs)
  - adverbial modifier: verbs, (adjectives)
- other-PoS-collocate
  - noun collocation: adjectives; verbs
    - (such) as noun
    - is subject/object of
  - verb collocation: adverbs, nouns
    - subject/object
- oposits: all PoS (mainly adjectives)

## What to Look For? II

- hypernyms/hyponyms: nouns
- meronyms/holonyms (part of): nouns
- troponyms: verbs
- prepositional phrases: verbs
  
- low-frequency expressions
- wrong lemmata/tags

## Examples I

### drunk

- who/what is drunk, can also be disorderly, sober, stoned, stupid, drunken, hungry, more
- there can be drunk driving, driver, tank, thatyou, foreman, skunk, hungover
- drunk as skunk, lord, tea
- drunk how? home, legally, allegedly

PoS: adjective

synonyms: stoned?

opposites: sober

(such) as: not very helpful

noun collocates: not very helpful

adverbial modifiers: not very helpful

## Examples II

### whisper

- meaning similar to whisper can have giggle, crane, kiss, sigh, mutter, nod
- voice, ear, answering, muse, devil can whisper
- someone/sth can whisper (with/by) voice, prayer, ear
- whisper how? conspiratorially, hoarsely, softly

PoS: verb

synonyms/troponyms: mutter

noun collocates: voice, muse, devil, (ear)

prepositional phrases: voice, prayer, ear

adverbial modifiers: conspiratorially, hoarsely, softly

# Bibliografie

For literature overview, please refer to:

- [1] Marie Stará. „Automatická tvorba definic z korpusu“. Dipl. Masaryk University, 2019. URL: [https://is.muni.cz/auth/th/i9wm5/acddc\\_2is.pdf](https://is.muni.cz/auth/th/i9wm5/acddc_2is.pdf) (cit. 21.04.2020).



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