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(54) **NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHOD**

(71) Applicant: **Fido Labs Inc.**, Palo Alto, CA (US)

(72) Inventors: **Michal Wroczynski**, Gdynia (PL); **Tomasz Krupa**, Sopot (PL); **Gniewosz Leliwa**, Gdansk (PL); **Piotr Wiacek**, Gdansk (PL); **Michal Stanczyk**, Gdansk (PL)

(73) Assignee: **Fido Labs Inc.**, Palo Alto, CA (US)

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Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**

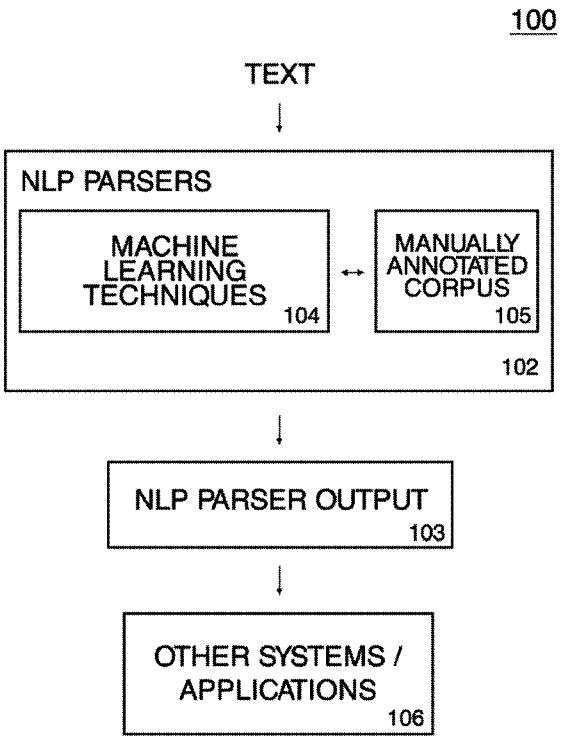
G06F 17/27	(2006.01)
G06F 17/28	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

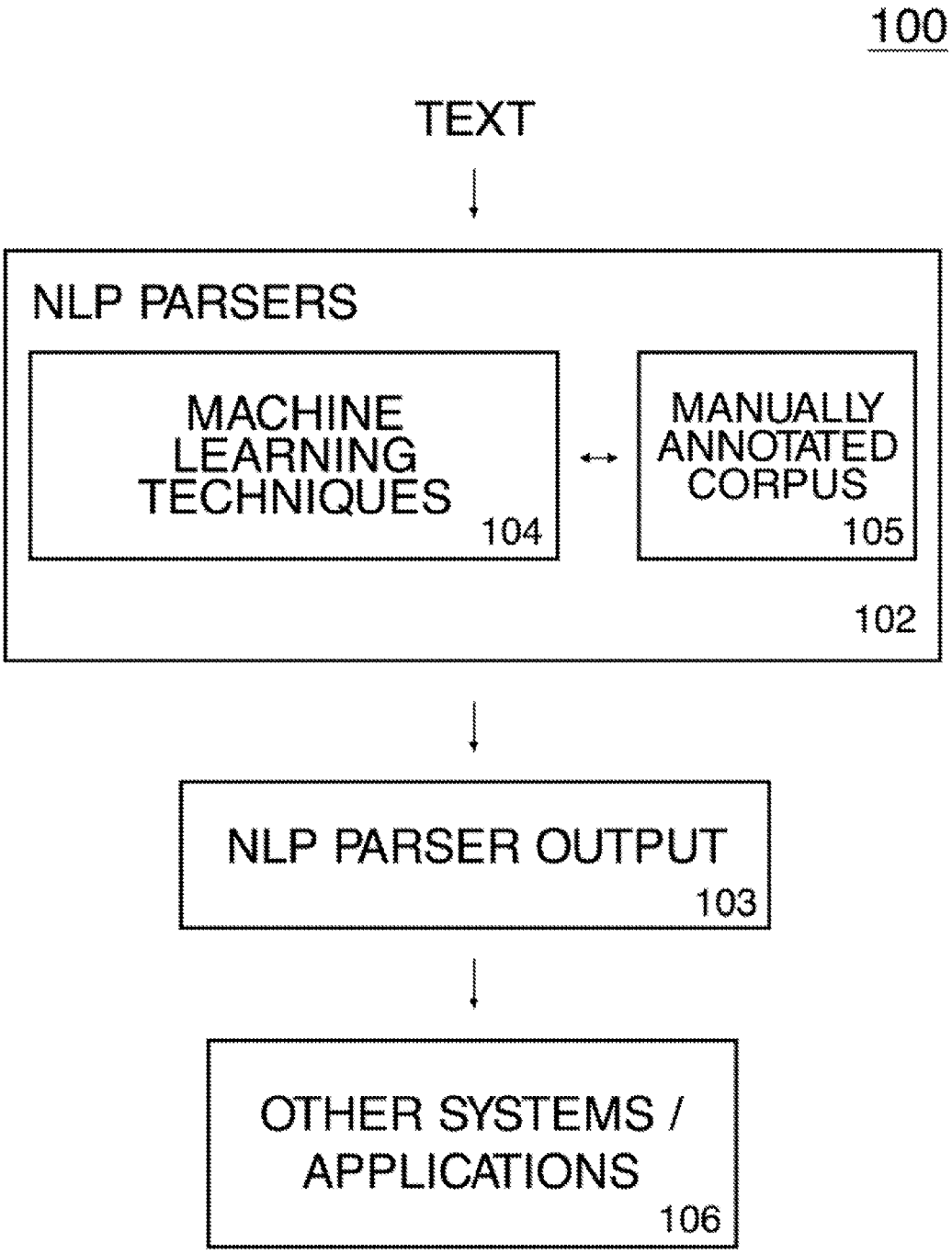
CPC ***G06F 17/277*** (2013.01); ***G06F 17/2881*** (2013.01); ***G06F 17/2705*** (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A natural language processing system is disclosed herein. Embodiments of the NLP system perform hand-written rule-based operations that do not rely on a trained corpus. Rules can be added or modified at any time to improve accuracy of the system, and to allow the same system to operate on unstructured plain text from many disparate contexts (e.g. articles as well as twitter contexts as well as medical articles) without harming accuracy for any one context. Embodiments also include a language decoder (LD) that generates information which is stored in a three-level framework (word, clause, phrase). The LD output is easily leveraged b various software applications to analyze large quantities of text from any source in a more sophisticated and flexible manner than previously possible. A query language (LDQL) for information extraction from NLP parsers' output is disclosed, with emphasis on on its embodiment implemented for LD. It is also presented, how to use LDQL for knowledge extraction on the example of application named Knowledge Browser.



METHODOLOGY OF PRIOR ART OF NLP PARSERS



METHODOLOGY OF PRIOR ART OF NLP PARSERS FIG. 1

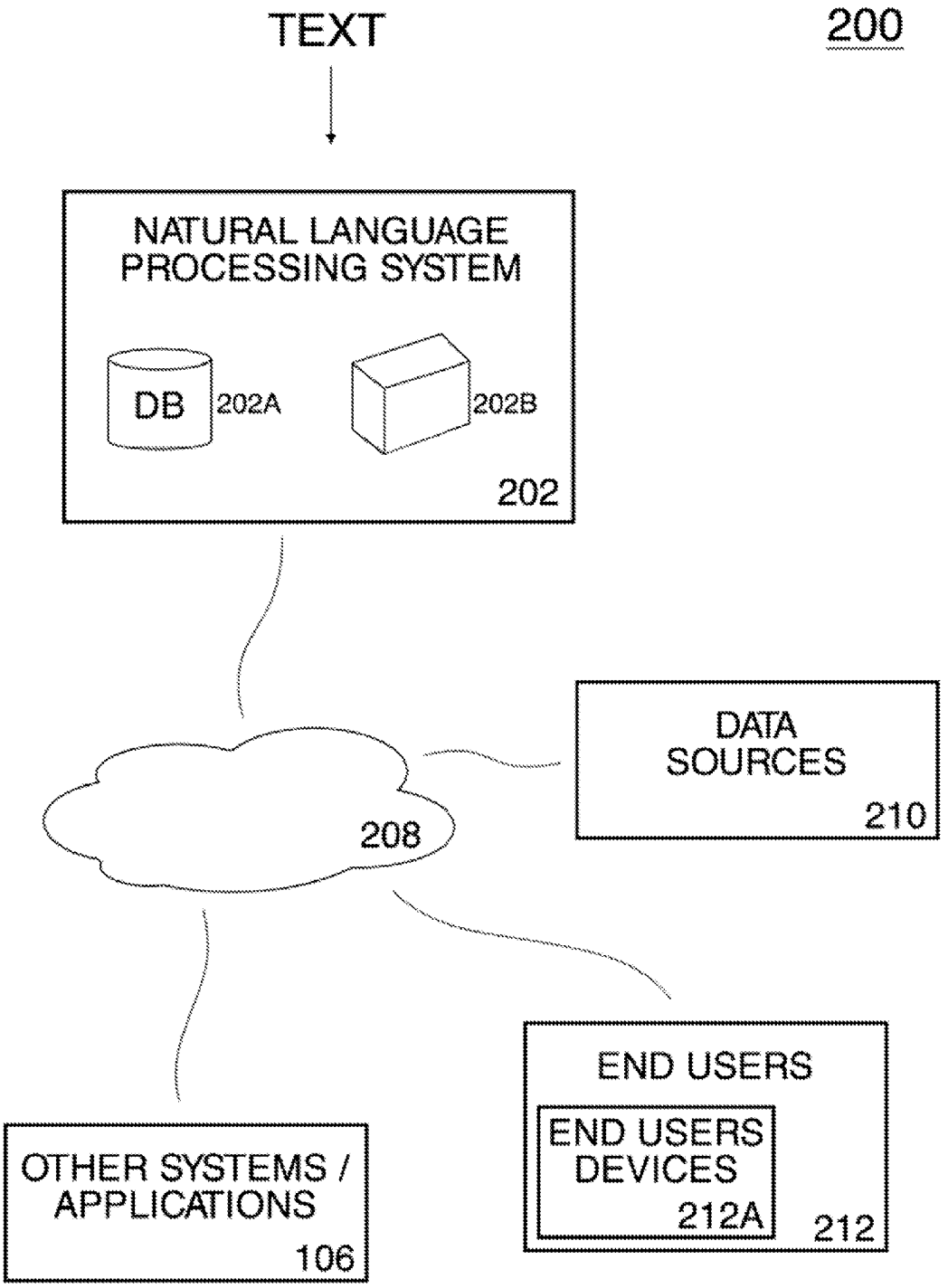

TEXT
200
NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM
DB
202A
202B
202
208
DATA SOURCES
210
OTHER SYSTEMS / APPLICATIONS
106
END USERS
END USERS DEVICES
212A
212

FIG. 2

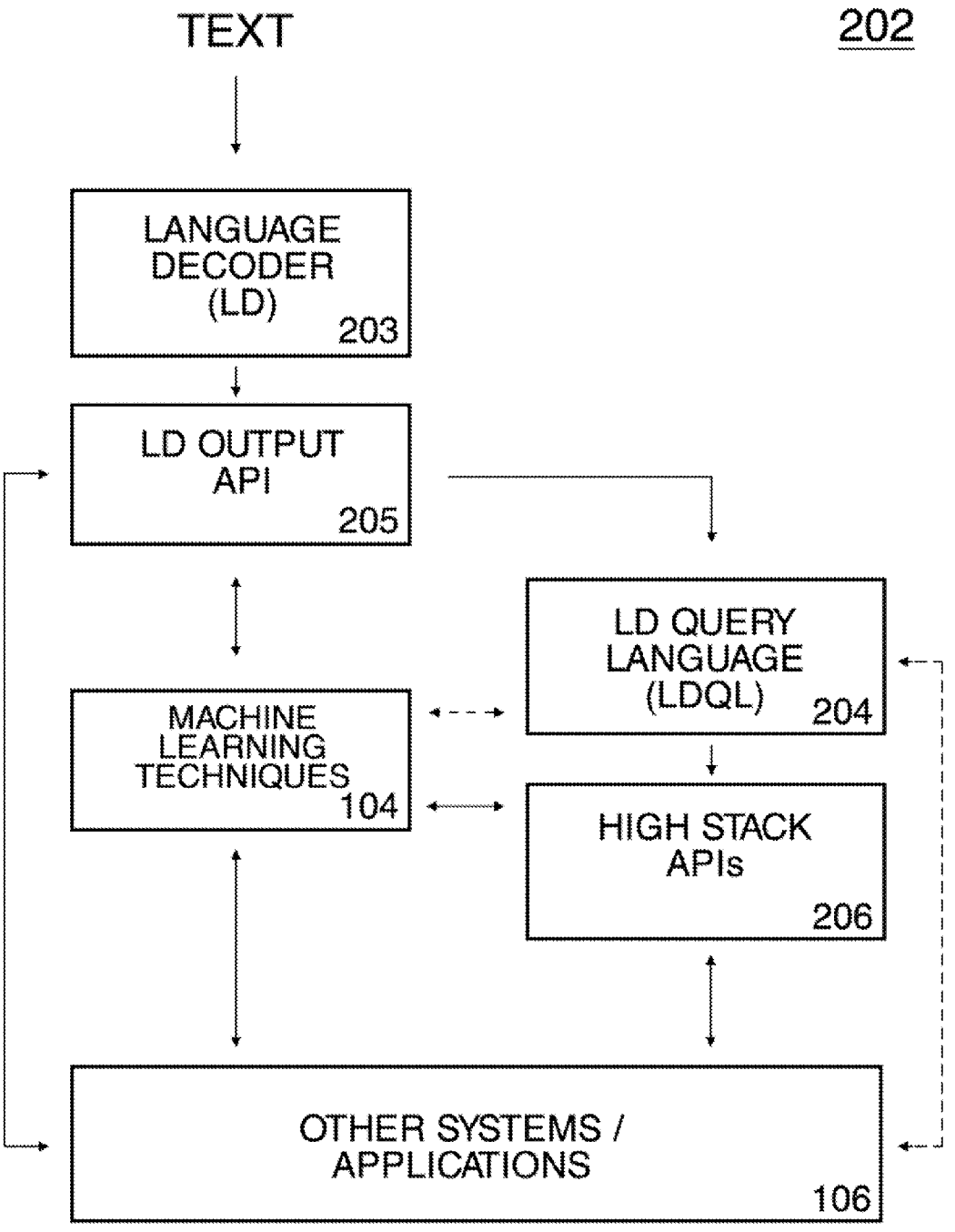

TEXT
202
LANGUAGE DECODER (LD)
203
LD OUTPUT API
205
LD QUERY LANGUAGE (LDQL)
204
MACHINE LEARNING TECHNIQUES
104
HIGH STACK APIs
206
OTHER SYSTEMS / APPLICATIONS
106

FIG. 3

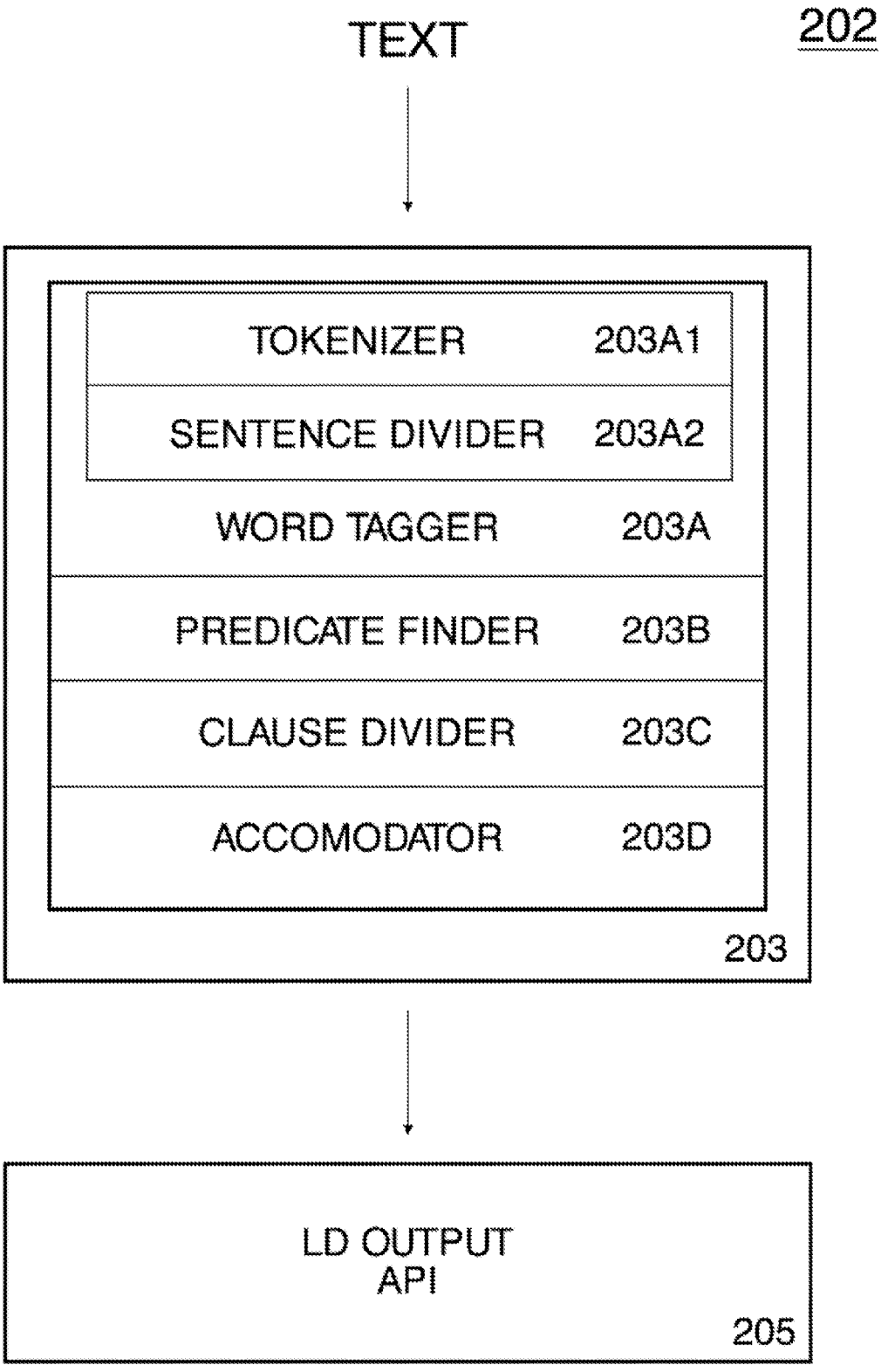

TEXT
202
TOKENIZER 203A1
SENTENCE DIVIDER 203A2
WORD TAGGER 203A
PREDICATE FINDER 203B
CLAUSE DIVIDER 203C
ACCOMODATOR 203D
203
LD OUTPUT API
205

FIG. 4

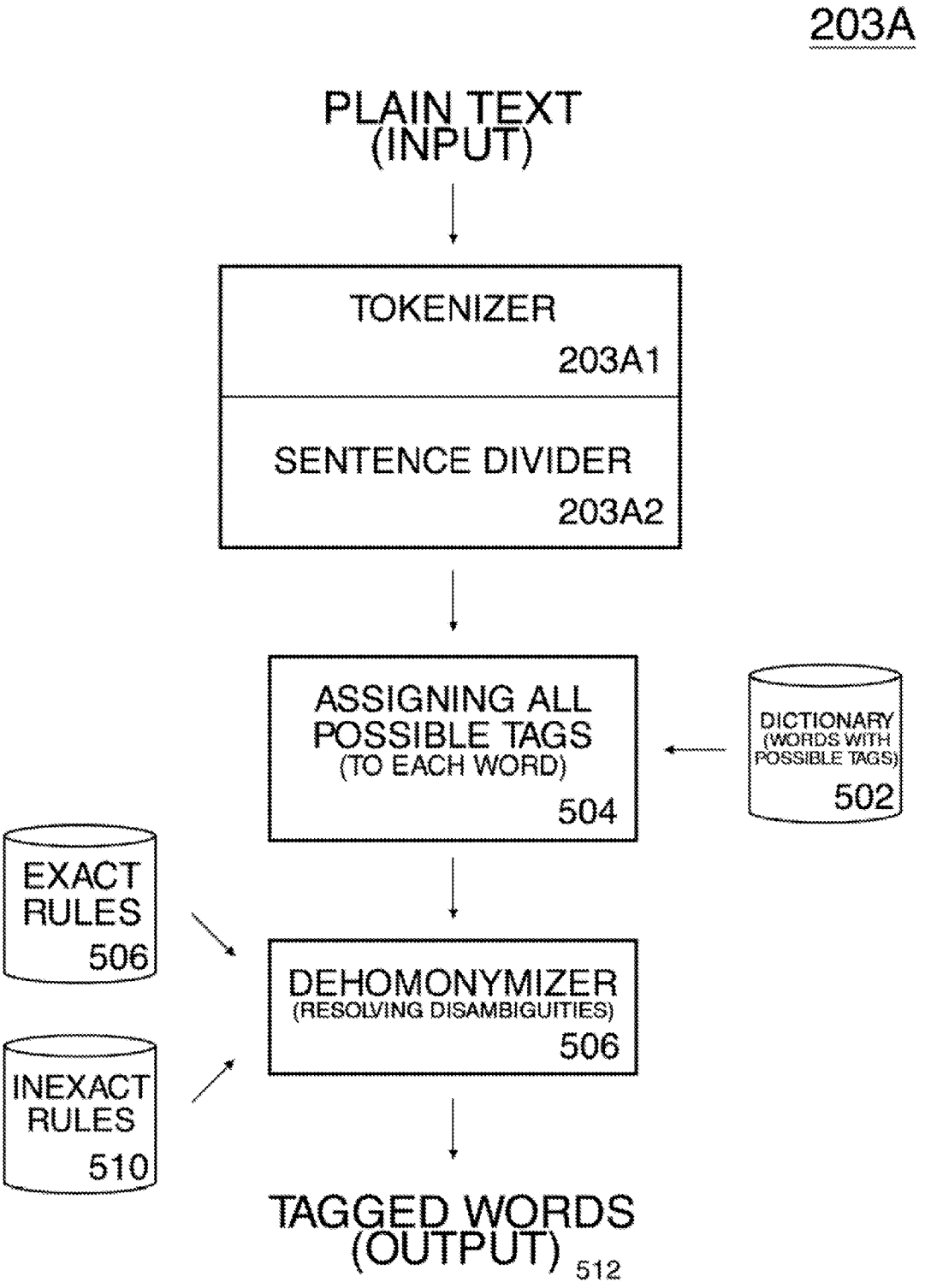

203A
PLAIN TEXT (INPUT)
TOKENIZER
203A1
SENTENCE DIVIDER
203A2
ASSIGNING ALL POSSIBLE TAGS (TO EACH WORD)
504
DICTIONARY (WORDS WITH POSSIBLE TAGS)
502
EXACT RULES
506
DEHOMONYMIZER (RESOLVING DISAMBIGUITIES)
506
INEXACT RULES
510
TAGGED WORDS (OUTPUT)
512

FIG. 5

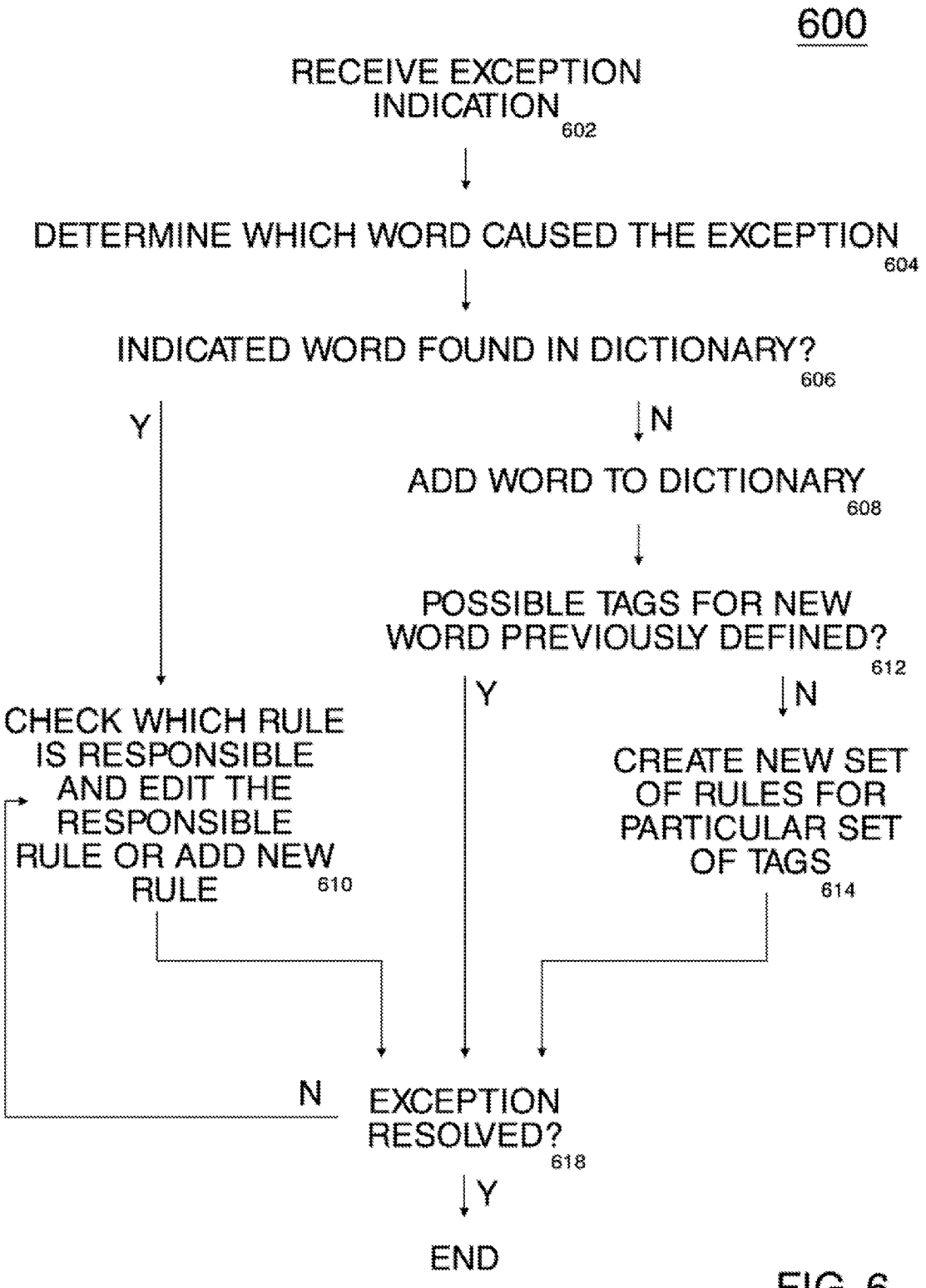

600
RECEIVE EXCEPTION INDICATION
602
DETERMINE WHICH WORD CAUSED THE EXCEPTION
604
INDICATED WORD FOUND IN DICTIONARY?
606
Y
N
ADD WORD TO DICTIONARY
608
POSSIBLE TAGS FOR NEW WORD PREVIOUSLY DEFINED?
612
Y
N
CHECK WHICH RULE IS RESPONSIBLE AND EDIT THE RESPONSIBLE RULE OR ADD NEW RULE
610
CREATE NEW SET OF RULES FOR PARTICULAR SET OF TAGS
614
N
EXCEPTION RESOLVED?
618
Y
END

FIG. 6

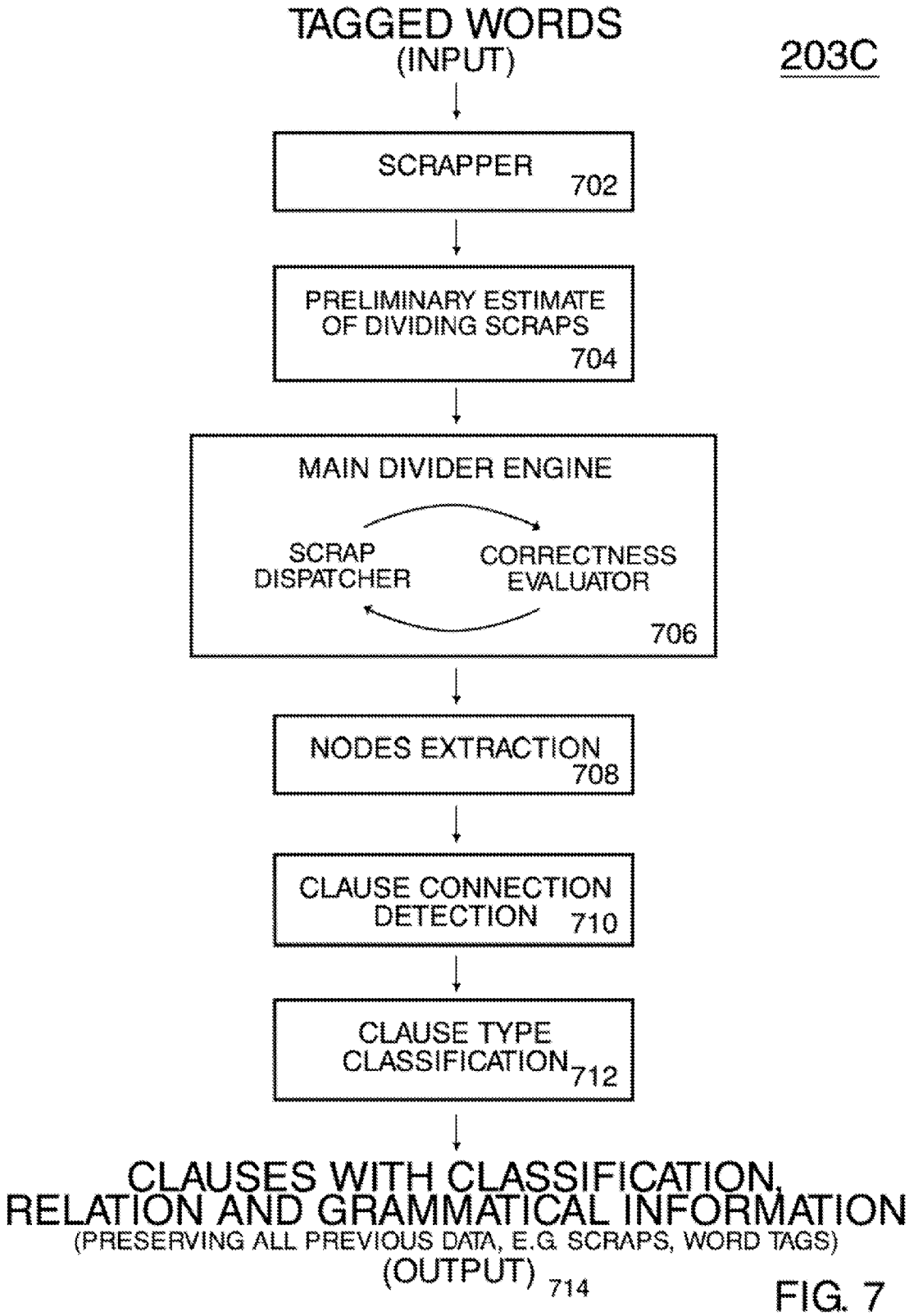

TAGGED WORDS
(INPUT)
203C
SCRAPPER
702
PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF DIVIDING SCRAPS
704
MAIN DIVIDER ENGINE
SCRAP DISPATCHER
CORRECTNESS EVALUATOR
706
NODES EXTRACTION
708
CLAUSE CONNECTION DETECTION
710
CLAUSE TYPE CLASSIFICATION
712
CLAUSES WITH CLASSIFICATION, RELATION AND GRAMMATICAL INFORMATION
(PRESERVING ALL PREVIOUS DATA, E.G. SCRAPS, WORD TAGS)
(OUTPUT)
714

FIG. 7

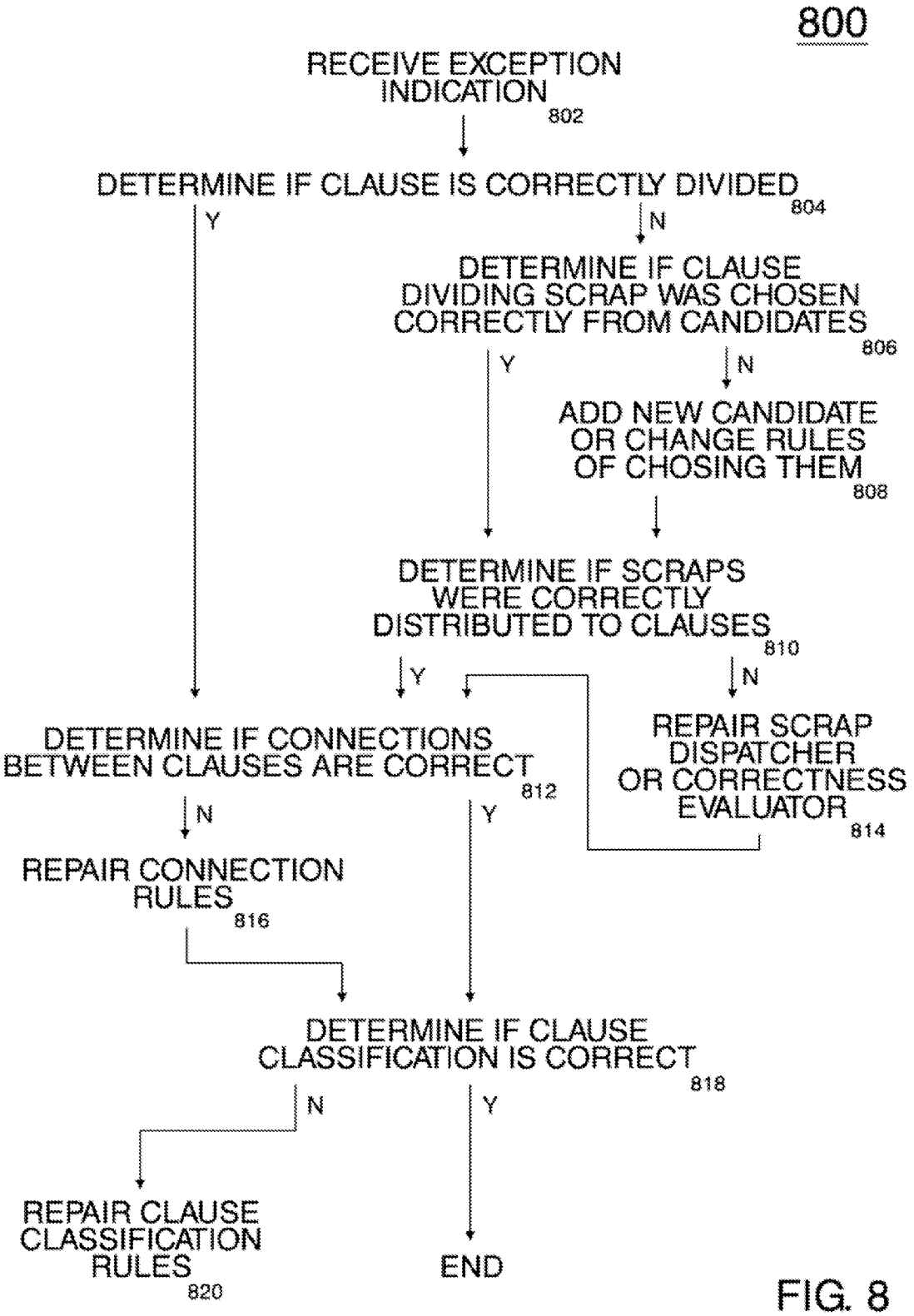

800
RECEIVE EXCEPTION INDICATION
802
DETERMINE IF CLAUSE IS CORRECTLY DIVIDED
804
Y
N
DETERMINE IF CLAUSE DIVIDING SCRAP WAS CHOSEN CORRECTLY FROM CANDIDATES
806
Y
N
ADD NEW CANDIDATE OR CHANGE RULES OF CHOSING THEM
808
DETERMINE IF SCRAPS WERE CORRECTLY DISTRIBUTED TO CLAUSES
810
Y
N
REPAIR SCRAP DISPATCHER OR CORRECTNESS EVALUATOR
814
DETERMINE IF CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CLAUSES ARE CORRECT
812
N
Y
REPAIR CONNECTION RULES
816
DETERMINE IF CLAUSE CLASSIFICATION IS CORRECT
818
N
Y
REPAIR CLAUSE CLASSIFICATION RULES
820
END

FIG. 8

1. Input.

DTA NS PP VCD JJT NS VLD DTJ NS
The man I saw last night became my friend.
predicate predicate

Clause divder takes set of taged words within one sentence.

2. Scrapper.

DTA NS PP VCD JJT NS VLD DTJ NS
The man I saw last night became my friend.
NP NP predicate AP predicate NP

Grouping words (excluding predicates) into scraps.
Word **The** is grouped with **man** making **NP** scrap,
word **last** is grouped with **night** making **AP** scrap,
word **my** is grouped with **friend** making **NP** scrap.
Word **I** makes **NP** scrap alone.

FIG. 9

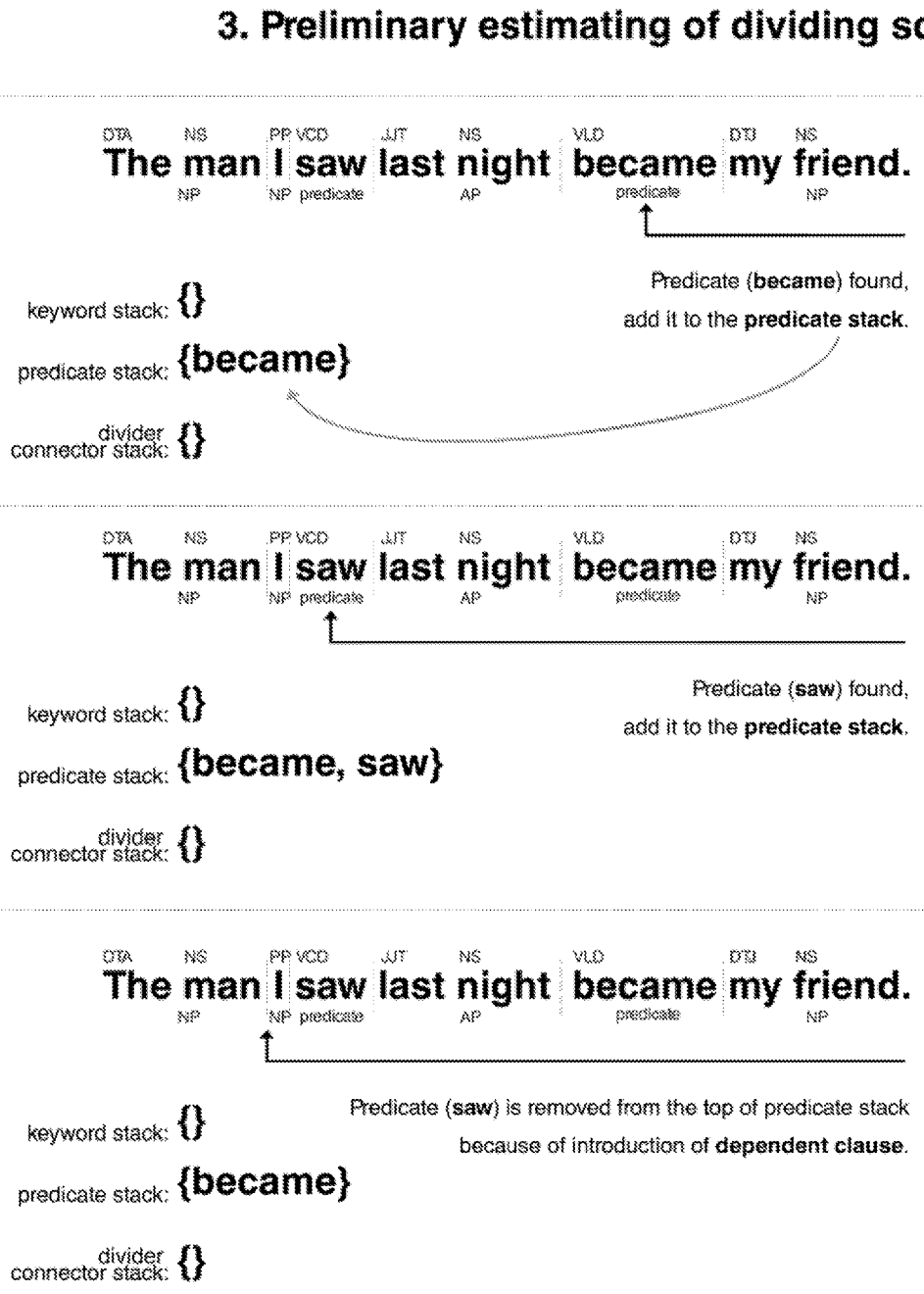

3. Preliminary estimating of dividing scraps.
DTA NS PP VCD JJT NS VLD DTJ NS
The man I saw last night became my friend.
NP NP predicate AP predicate NP
Predicate (became) found,
add it to the predicate stack.
keyword stack: {}
predicate stack: {became}
divider connector stack: {}
DTA NS PP VCD JJT NS VLD DTJ NS
The man I saw last night became my friend.
NP NP predicate AP predicate NP
Predicate (saw) found,
add it to the predicate stack.
keyword stack: {}
predicate stack: {became, saw}
divider connector stack: {}
DTA NS PP VCD JJT NS VLD DTJ NS
The man I saw last night became my friend.
NP NP predicate AP predicate NP
Predicate (saw) is removed from the top of predicate stack
because of introduction of dependent clause.
keyword stack: {}
predicate stack: {became}
divider connector stack: {}

FIG. 10

4. Main divider engine.



Scrap (**The man**) is put to the first clause of temporary stack.

final stack: {}

temporary stack: {{The man}}



Scrap (**I**) is put to the second clause of temporary stack because of introduction of **dependent clause**.

final stack: {}

temporary stack: {{The man}, {I}}



Predicate scrap (**saw**) is put to the second clause of temporary stack.

final stack: {}

temporary stack: {{The man}, {I, saw}}

FIG. 11



Scrap (**last night**) is put to the second clause of temporary stack.

final stack: {}

temporary stack: {{The man}, {I, saw, last night}}



Second clause is moved from **temporary** to **final clause stack** because of detection of another **predicate scrap**.

final stack: {{I, saw, last night}}

temporary stack: {{The man, became}}



Scrap (**my friend**) is put to the first clause of temporary stack.

final stack: {{I, saw, last night}}

temporary stack: {{The man, became, my friend}}



End of sentence - Remaining clause from temporary stack is moved to the final stack.

final stack: {{I, saw, last night}, {The man, became, my friend}}

temporary stack: {}

FIG. 12

5. Nodes extraction.



In this example none of the clauses are starting with potential node.

clauses: **{{I, saw, last night}, {The man, became, my friend}}**

6. Clause connection detection.



Directed connection between first and second clause is detected.

clauses: **{{I, saw, last night}, {The man, became, my friend}}**





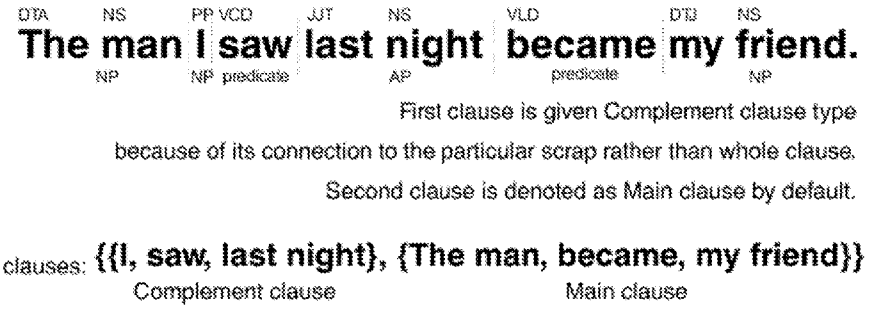
Additionaly connection between first clause and first scrap from second clause is detected.

clauses: **{{I, saw, last night}, {The man, became, my friend}}**



FIG. 13

7. Clause type clasification.



8. Output.

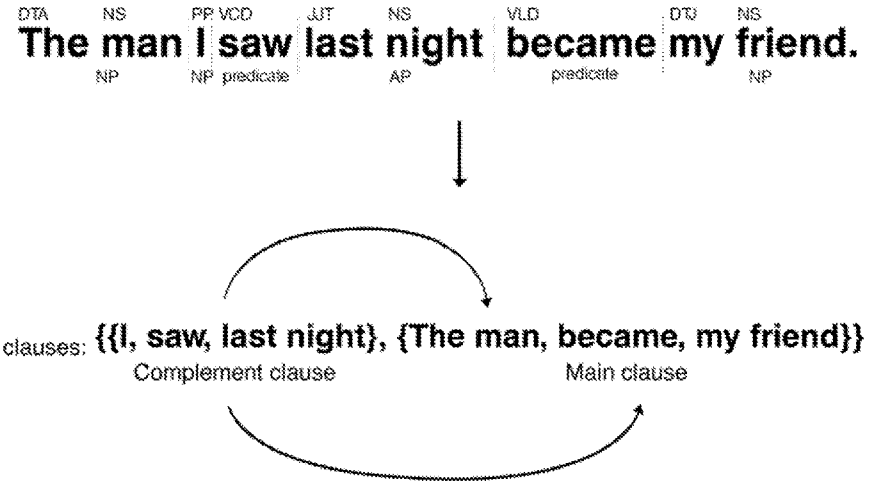


FIG. 14

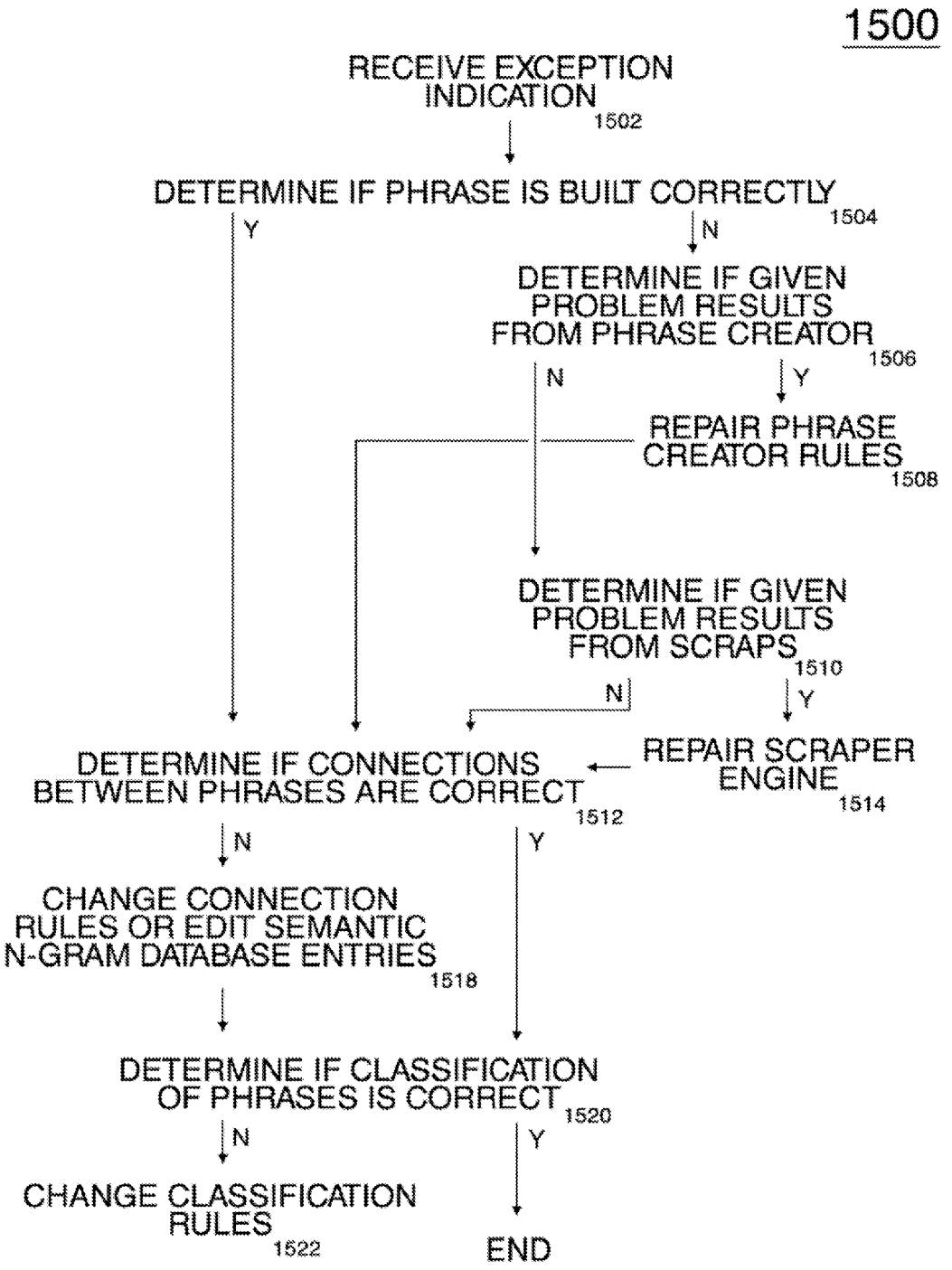

1500
RECEIVE EXCEPTION INDICATION
1502
DETERMINE IF PHRASE IS BUILT CORRECTLY
1504
Y
N
DETERMINE IF GIVEN PROBLEM RESULTS FROM PHRASE CREATOR
1506
N
Y
REPAIR PHRASE CREATOR RULES
1508
DETERMINE IF GIVEN PROBLEM RESULTS FROM SCRAPS
1510
N
Y
REPAIR SCRAPER ENGINE
1514
DETERMINE IF CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PHRASES ARE CORRECT
1512
N
Y
CHANGE CONNECTION RULES OR EDIT SEMANTIC N-GRAM DATABASE ENTRIES
1518
DETERMINE IF CLASSIFICATION OF PHRASES IS CORRECT
1520
N
Y
CHANGE CLASSIFICATION RULES
1522
END

FIG. 15

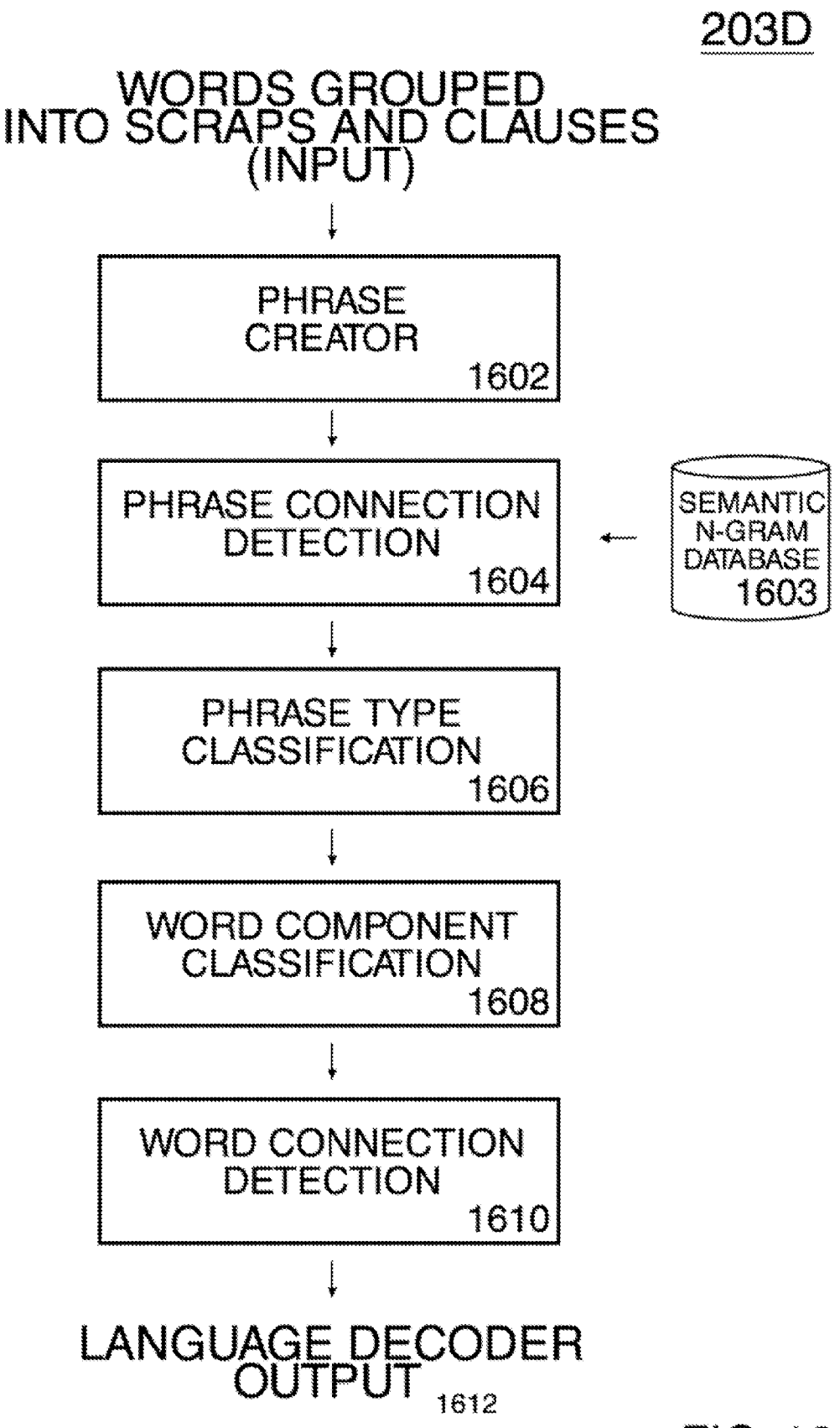

203D
WORDS GROUPED INTO SCRAPS AND CLAUSES (INPUT)
PHRASE CREATOR 1602
PHRASE CONNECTION DETECTION 1604
SEMANTIC N-GRAM DATABASE 1603
PHRASE TYPE CLASSIFICATION 1606
WORD COMPONENT CLASSIFICATION 1608
WORD CONNECTION DETECTION 1610
LANGUAGE DECODER OUTPUT 1612

FIG. 16

I recommend coffee with sweetener for your father.
To check if given element is superior, try to replace it with 'it'
And check if it keeps the original meaning
If not it is indeed the superior phrase.
I recommend it with sweetener for your father.
I recommend coffee with sweetener for your father.
To check if given element is superior, try to replace it with 'it'
And check if it keeps the original meaning
If not it is indeed the superior phrase.
I recommend it for your father.
I recommend coffee with sweetener for your father.
If so the phrase before it is superior
I recommend coffee with sweetener for your father.

FIG. 17

1. Input.

NS	NS	VBD	NS	IN	NS	NS	NP
Construction	worker	bought	coffee	with	milk	and	cigarettes
NP	NP	predicate	NP	PP		CN	NP

Accomodator engine takes set of scraps within one clause.

2. Creating phrases.

NS	NS	VBD	NS	IN	NS	NS	NP
Construction	worker	bought	coffee	with	milk	and	cigarettes
NP		predicate	NP	P	NP	CN	NP

This section creates phrases by minor scrap manipulations (merging, dividing and type changing).

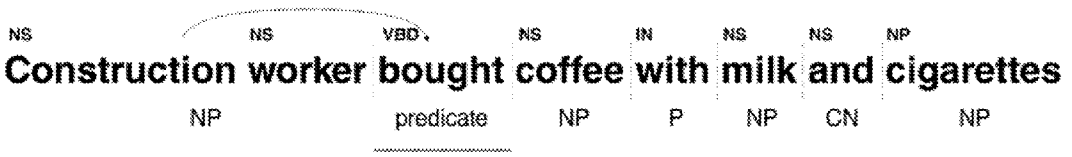
3. Connecting phrases.

NS	NS	VBD	NS	IN	NS	NS	NP
Construction	worker	bought	coffee	with	milk	and	cigarettes
NP		predicate	NP	P	NP	CN	NP

stack: {construction worker}

First step is to connect 'construction worker' to a predicate because of its position. Then 'construction worker' phrase is added to the stack (only NP and P phrases can be added to the stack).

FIG. 18



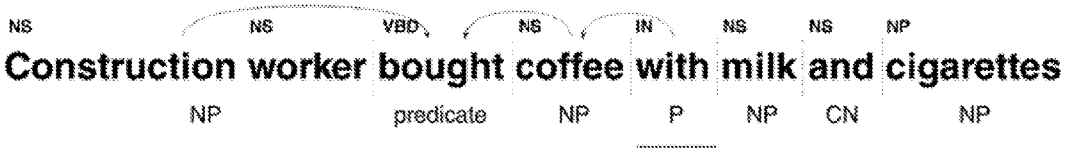
stack: {}

Predicate 'bought' is by default connected to the root (-1).
'Construction worker' phrase is removed from the stack because of predicate appearance.



stack: {coffee}

"Coffee" is connected to a predicate because of noun-verb proximity.
This phrase is put into the stack.



stack: {coffee}

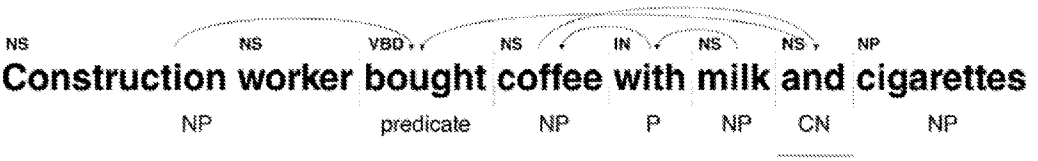
Here two situations are considered.
Either "with" connects phrase on the right with one from the top of the stack
or "with" connects phrase on the right with predicate.
First solution semantically suits better therfore this one is selected.



stack: {coffee}
{with milk}

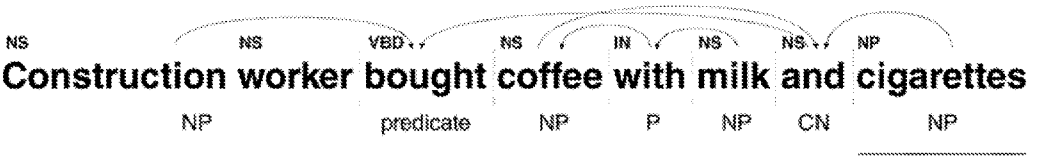
"Milk" is connected to "with" phrase because
it stands right after a preposition.
Pair "with milk" is added to the stack.

FIG. 19



stack: {coffee}
{with milk}

Here two situations are considered.
"And" links phrase on the right with one of the phrases from the stack:
Either "coffee and cigarettes" or "with milk and cigarettes"
These two pairs force following semantic relations:
"bought cigarettes" and "coffe with cigarettes" respectively.
The first makes more semantic sense therefore it is chosen.
"And" takes over the connection (to "bought") from "coffee" and links it to itself.

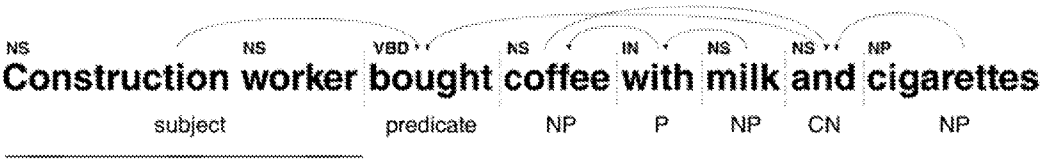


stack: {coffee}
{with milk}

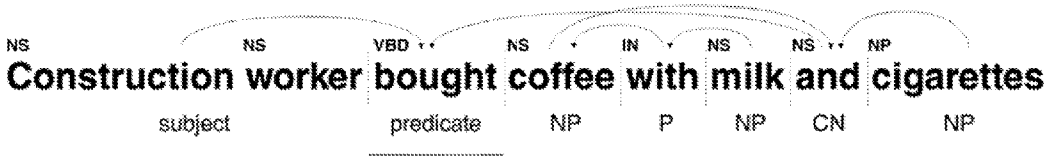
"Cigarettes" is connected to "and" phrase
because stands right after CN (connector) phrase.

FIG. 20

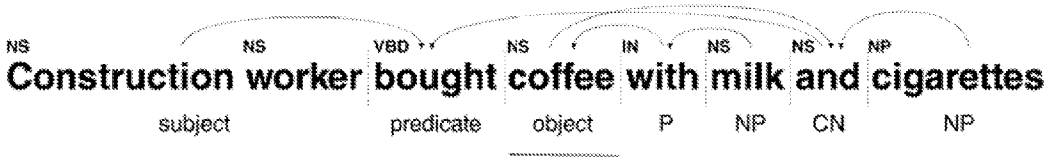
4. Phrase classification.



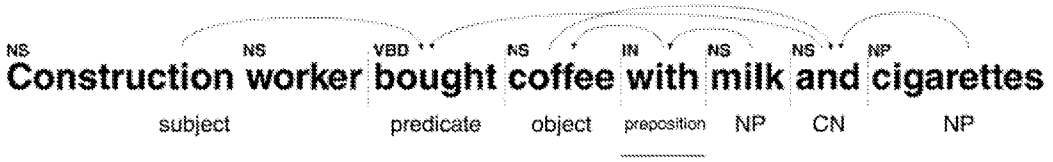
"Construction worker" phrase gets SUBJECT for its type because of position and connection to predicate.



Predicate phrase type was given by the Clause Divider module.

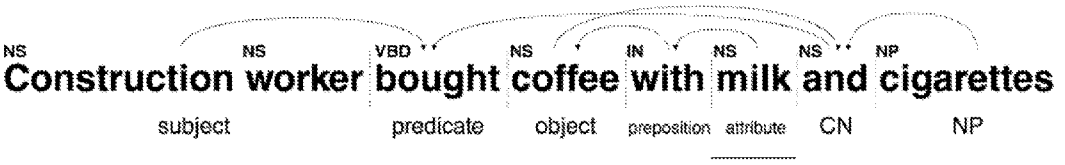


"Coffee" phrase gets its type because of its position and relation to predicate.

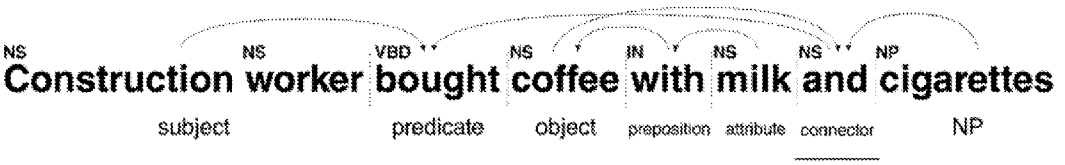


"With" scrap type (P) is changed to preposition phrase type.

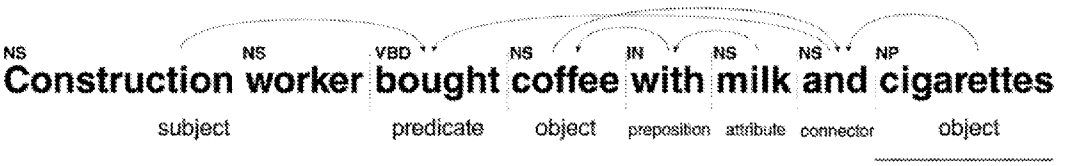
FIG. 21



"Milk" phrase gets its type because of relation to a prepositional phrase.

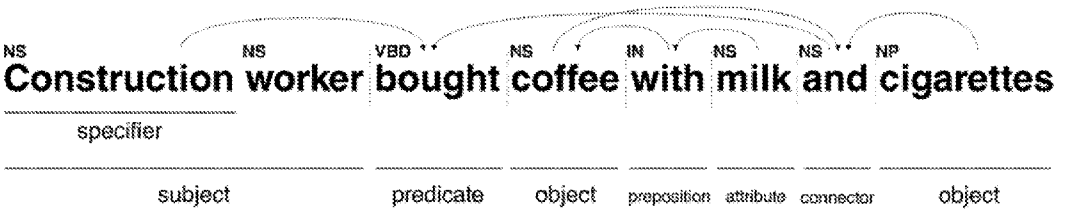


"And" gets its type because it is linking other phrases.



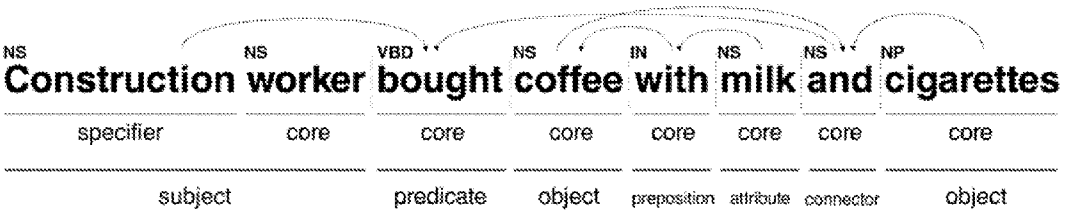
"Cigarettes" gets attribute type because of relation to perticular connector.

5. Word categorization.



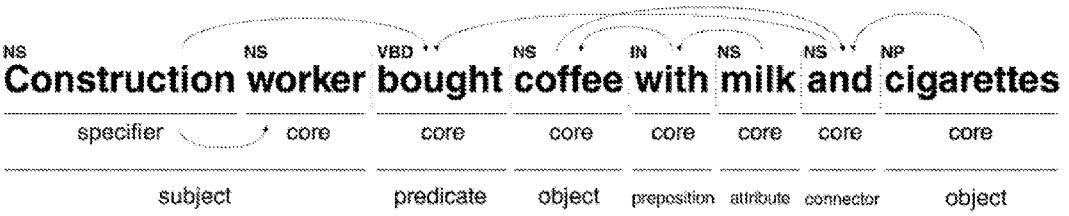
Word "construction" gets specifier component because it is a noun describing phrase core.

FIG. 22



Rest of the words from the sentence gets core component
because they are single within corresponding phrases and are not modifying any other phrases.

6. Connecting words within phrases.



All specifying words are connected to core of phrase.
Rest of the words from sentence
are not considered here because they are single within coresponding phrases.

7. Output.

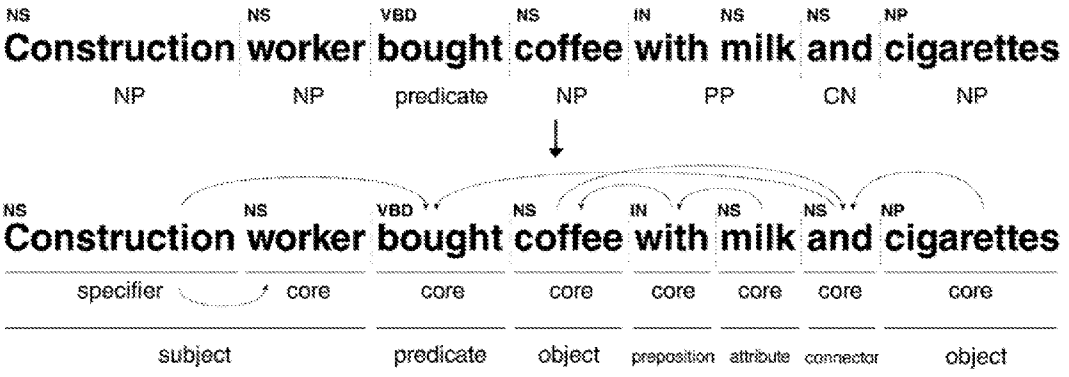


FIG. 23

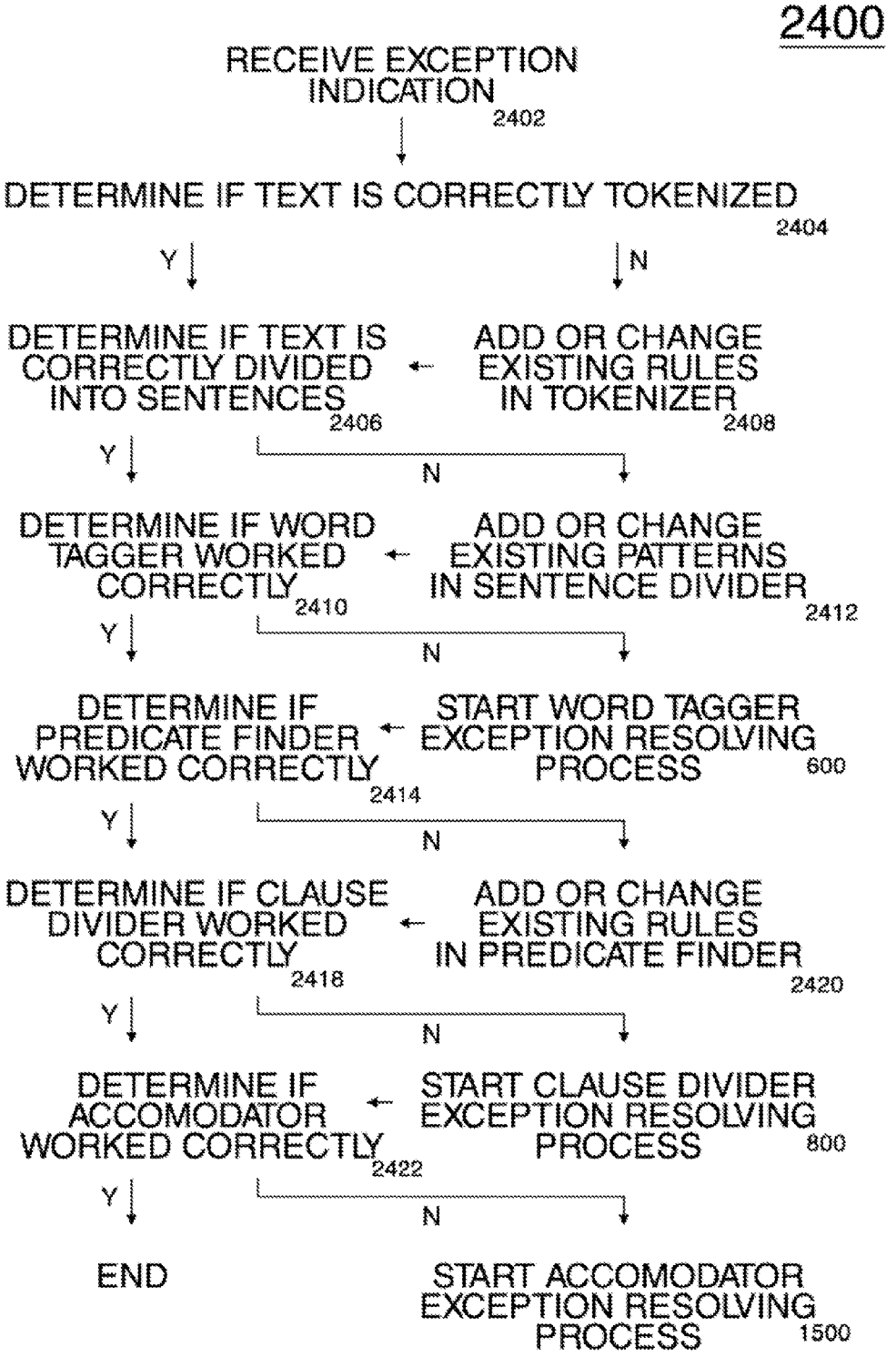

2400
RECEIVE EXCEPTION INDICATION
2402
DETERMINE IF TEXT IS CORRECTLY TOKENIZED
2404
Y
N
DETERMINE IF TEXT IS CORRECTLY DIVIDED INTO SENTENCES
2406
ADD OR CHANGE EXISTING RULES IN TOKENIZER
2408
Y
N
DETERMINE IF WORD TAGGER WORKED CORRECTLY
2410
ADD OR CHANGE EXISTING PATTERNS IN SENTENCE DIVIDER
2412
Y
N
DETERMINE IF PREDICATE FINDER WORKED CORRECTLY
2414
START WORD TAGGER EXCEPTION RESOLVING PROCESS
600
Y
N
DETERMINE IF CLAUSE DIVIDER WORKED CORRECTLY
2418
ADD OR CHANGE EXISTING RULES IN PREDICATE FINDER
2420
Y
N
DETERMINE IF ACCOMODATOR WORKED CORRECTLY
2422
START CLAUSE DIVIDER EXCEPTION RESOLVING PROCESS
800
Y
N
END
START ACCOMODATOR EXCEPTION RESOLVING PROCESS
1500

FIG. 24

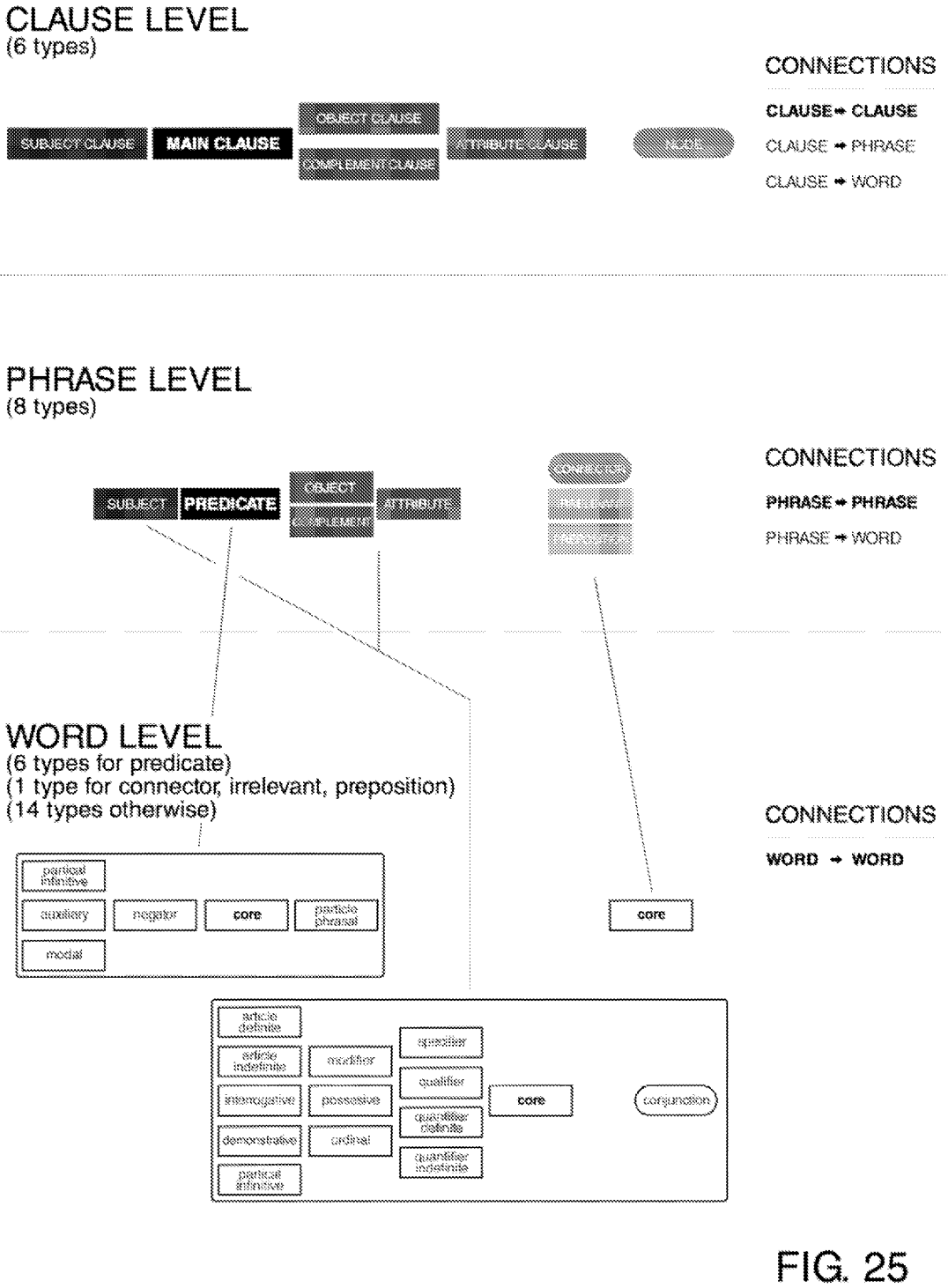

CLAUSE LEVEL
(6 types)
SUBJECT CLAUSE
MAIN CLAUSE
OBJECT CLAUSE
COMPLEMENT CLAUSE
ATTRIBUTE CLAUSE
NOUN
CONNECTIONS
CLAUSE ➡ CLAUSE
CLAUSE ➡ PHRASE
CLAUSE ➡ WORD
PHRASE LEVEL
(8 types)
SUBJECT
PREDICATE
OBJECT
COMPLEMENT
ATTRIBUTE
CONNECTIVE
CONNECTIONS
PHRASE ➡ PHRASE
PHRASE ➡ WORD
WORD LEVEL
(6 types for predicate)
(1 type for connector, irrelevant, preposition)
(14 types otherwise)
particial infinitive
auxiliary
negator
core
particle phrasal
modal
core
article definite
article indefinite
interrogative
demonstrative
particial infinitive
modifier
possessive
ordinal
specifier
qualifier
quantifier definite
quantifier indefinite
core
conjunction
CONNECTIONS
WORD ➡ WORD

FIG. 25

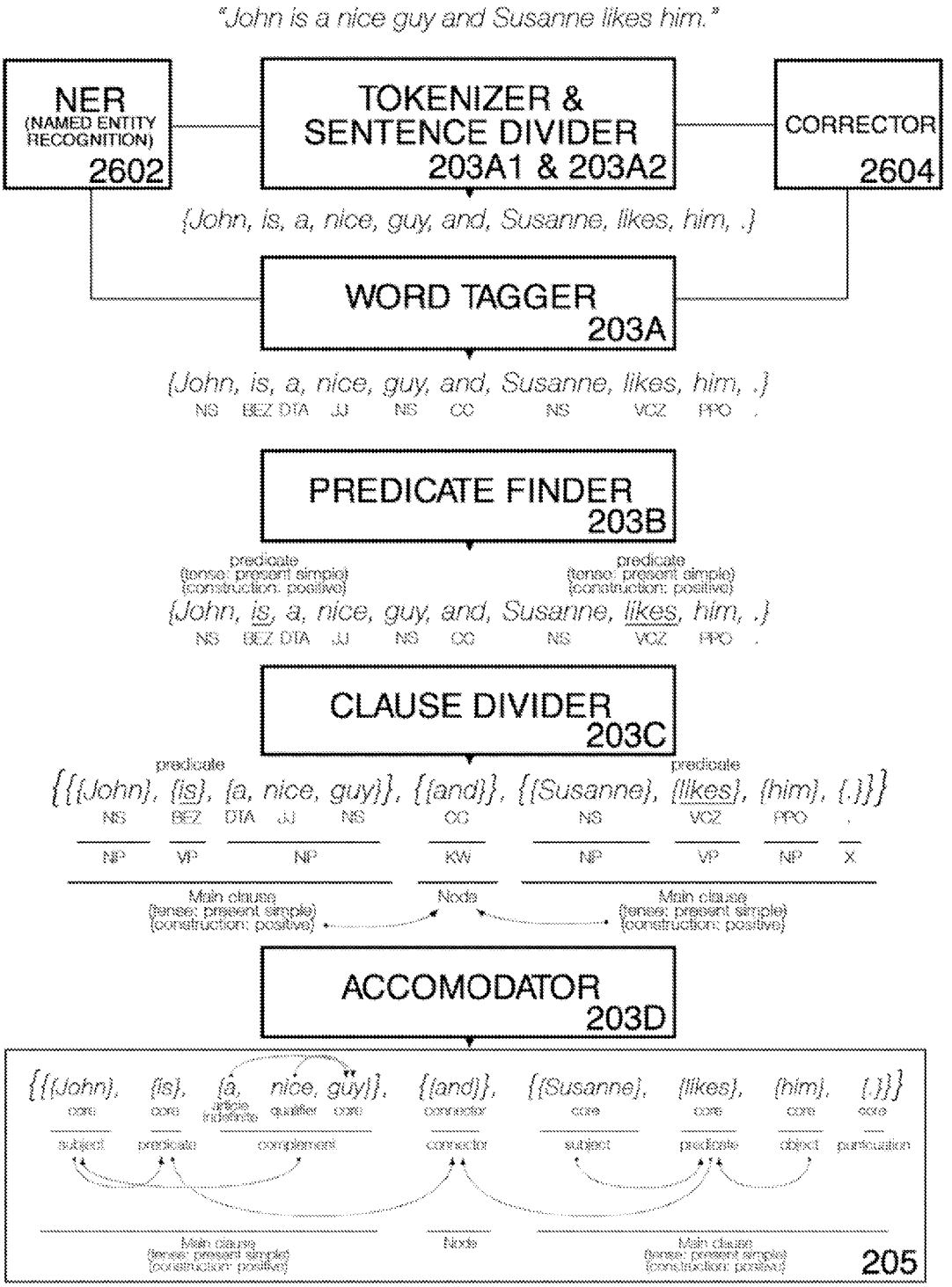
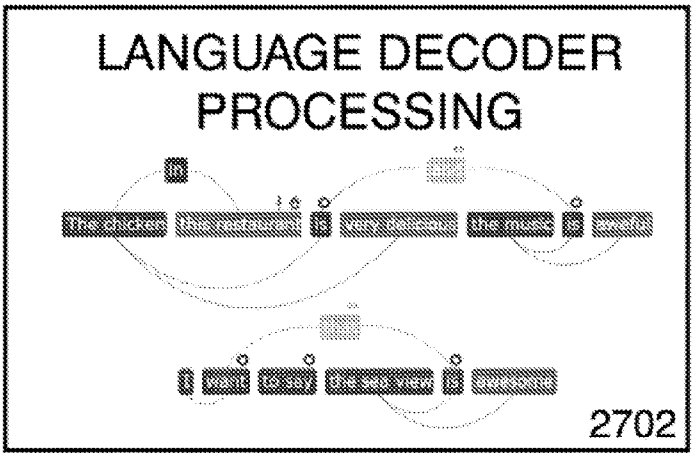
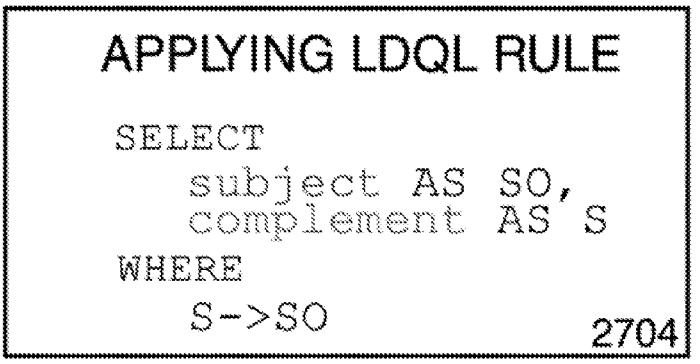

"John is a nice guy and Susanne likes him."
NER
(NAMED ENTITY RECOGNITION)
2602
TOKENIZER & SENTENCE DIVIDER
203A1 & 203A2
CORRECTOR
2604
{John, is, a, nice, guy, and, Susanne, likes, him, .}
WORD TAGGER
203A
{John, is, a, nice, guy, and, Susanne, likes, him, .}
NS BEZ DTA JJ NS CC NS VCZ PPO .
PREDICATE FINDER
203B
predicate
(tense: present simple)
(construction: positive)
predicate
(tense: present simple)
(construction: positive)
{John, is, a, nice, guy, and, Susanne, likes, him, .}
NS BEZ DTA JJ NS CC NS VCZ PPO .
CLAUSE DIVIDER
203C
predicate
predicate
{{(John), (is), (a, nice, guy)}, {(and)}, {(Susanne), (likes), (him), (.)}}
NS BEZ DTA JJ NS CC NS VCZ PPO .
NP VP NP KW NP VP NP X
Main clause
(tense: present simple)
(construction: positive)
Node
Main clause
(tense: present simple)
(construction: positive)
ACCOMODATOR
203D
{{(John), (is), (a, nice, guy)}, {(and)}, {(Susanne), (likes), (him), (.)}}
core core article adjective qualifier core connector core core core core
subject predicate complement connector subject predicate object punctuation
Main clause
(tense: present simple)
(construction: positive)
Node
Main clause
(tense: present simple)
(construction: positive)
205

FIG. 26

TEXT INPUT
("The chicken in this restaurant is very delicious
and the music is awful!
I want to say that the sea view is awesome!")





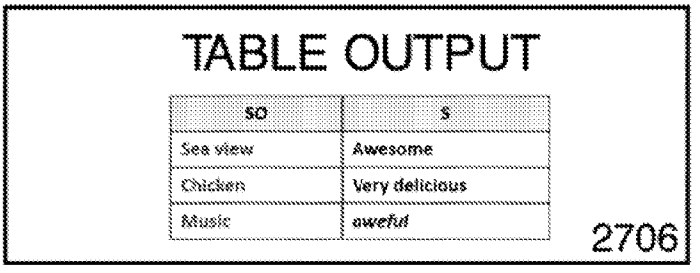


FIG. 27

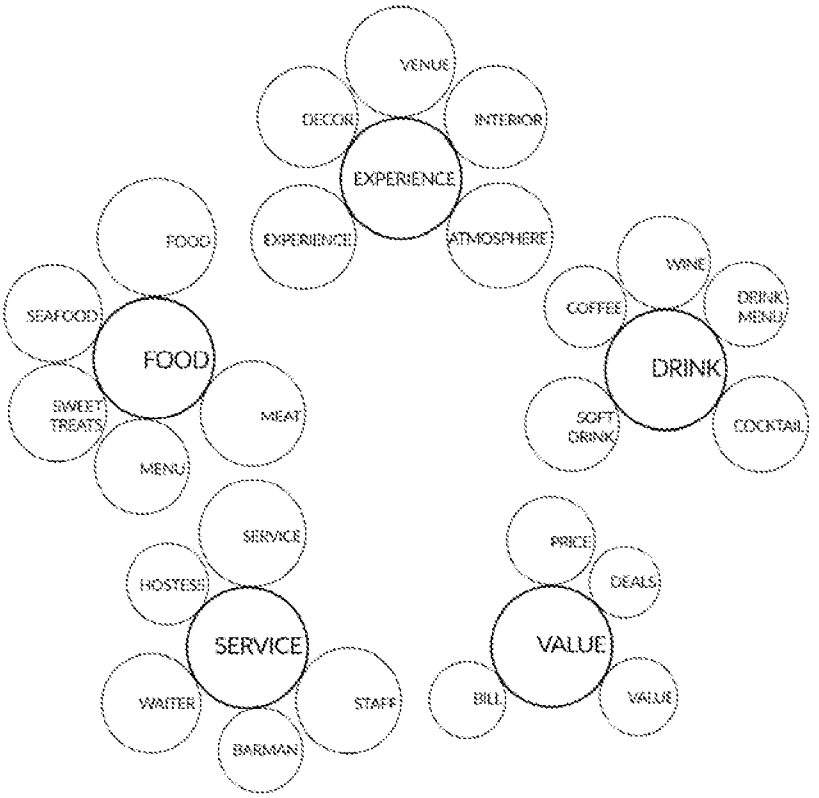

VENUE
DECOR
INTERIOR
EXPERIENCE
EXPERIENCE
ATMOSPHERE
FOOD
SEAFOOD
FOOD
SWEET TREATS
MEAT
MENU
WINE
COFFEE
DRINK MENU
DRINK
SOFT DRINK
COCKTAIL
SERVICE
HOSTESS
SERVICE
WAITER
STAFF
BARMAN
PRICE
DEALS
VALUE
BILL
VALUE

FIG. 28

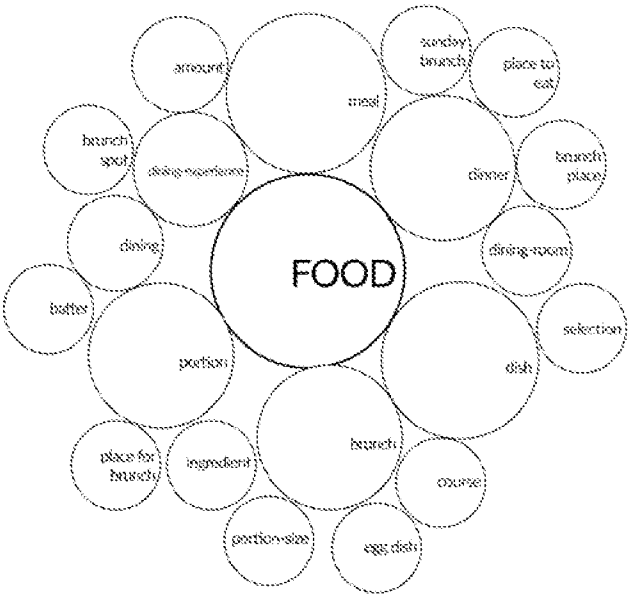

FOOD
meal
sunday brunch
place to eat
amount
brunch spot
dining experience
dinner
brunch place
dining
dining room
batter
selection
portion
dish
brunch
place for brunch
ingredient
course
portion size
egg dish

FIG. 29

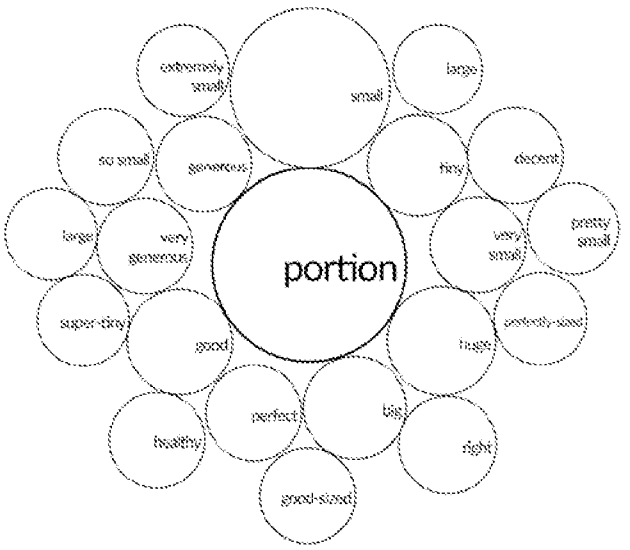

portion
extremely small
small
large
so small
generous
tiny
decent
large
very generous
very small
pretty small
super-tiny
good
huge
perfect
big
healthy
right
good-sized

FIG. 30

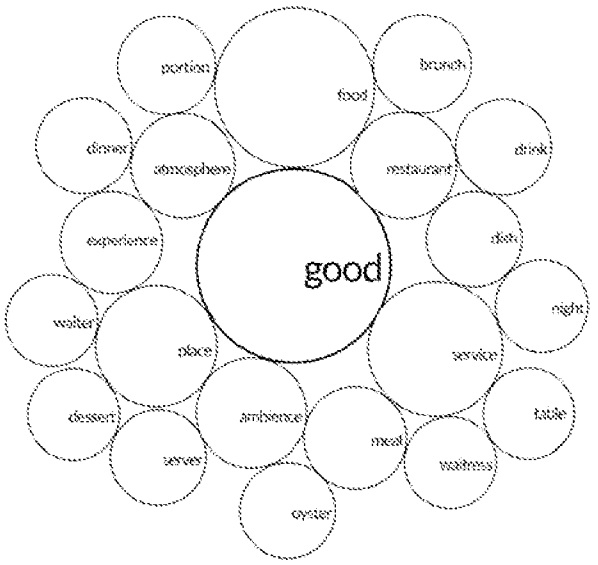

portion
food
brunch
dinner
atmosphere
restaurant
drink
experience
good
diet
night
waiter
place
service
dessert
ambience
meal
table
server
waitress
oyster

FIG. 31

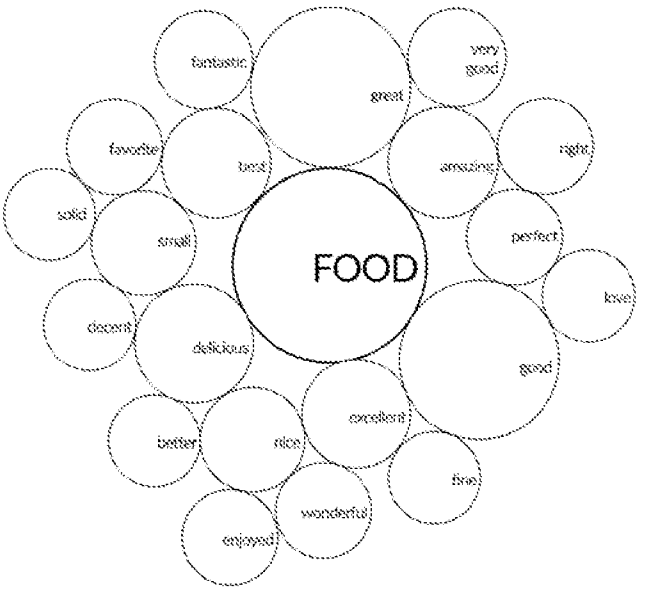

FOOD
fantastic
great
very good
favorite
best
amazing
right
solid
small
perfect
love
decent
delicious
good
excellent
better
nice
fine
wonderful
enjoyed

FIG. 32

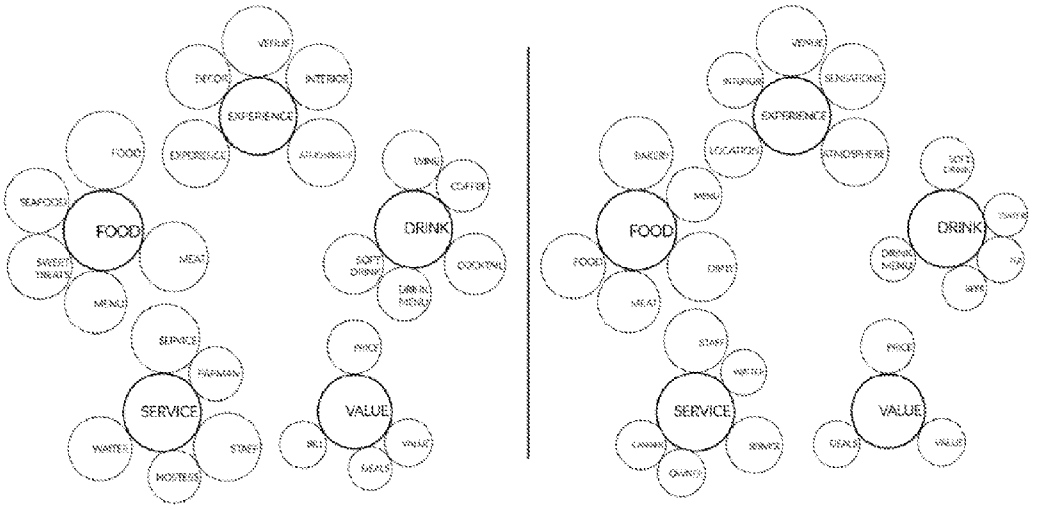

EXPERIENCE
FOOD
DRINK
SERVICE
VALUE
EXPERIENCE
FOOD
DRINK
SERVICE
VALUE

FIG. 33



FIG. 34

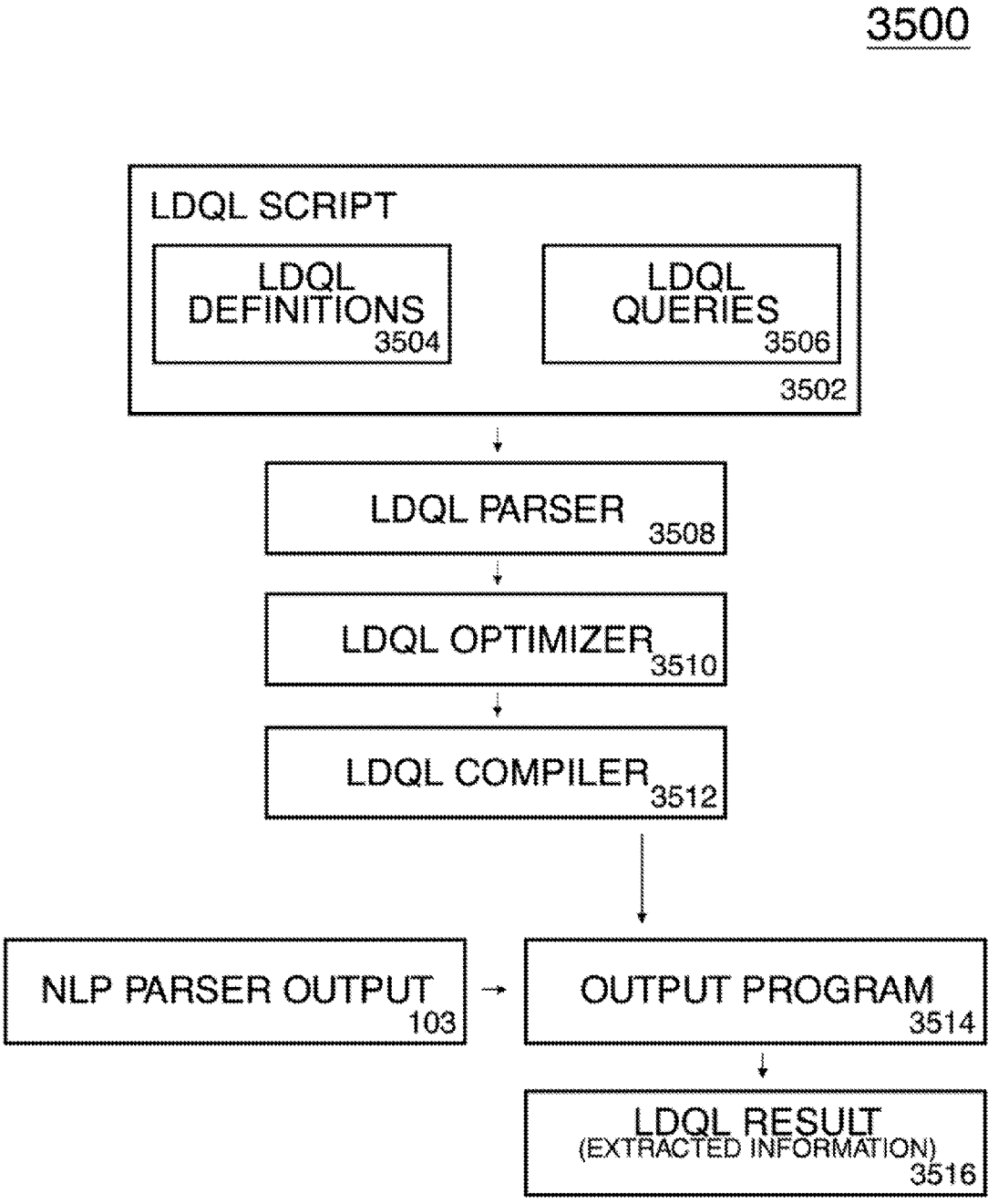

3500
LDQL SCRIPT
LDQL DEFINITIONS 3504
LDQL QUERIES 3506
3502
LDQL PARSER 3508
LDQL OPTIMIZER 3510
LDQL COMPILER 3512
NLP PARSER OUTPUT 103
OUTPUT PROGRAM 3514
LDQL RESULT (EXTRACTED INFORMATION) 3516

FIG. 35

NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHOD

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/071,631, filed Nov. 4, 2013, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/721,792, filed Nov. 2, 2012. Both of these application are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Inventions disclosed and claimed herein are in the field of natural language processing (NLP).

BACKGROUND

[0003] Natural language processing (NLP) systems are computer-implemented methods for taking natural language input (for example, computer-readable text), and operating on the input so as to generate output that is useful for computers to derive meaning. Examples of NLP systems applications include spell checkers/grammar checkers, machine translation systems, and speech-to-text systems. Increasingly, there is interest in developing methods for machines to more intelligently interpret human language input data (such as text) for the purpose of directing, the computer as if it were another person who could understand speech. One application for such methods is search engines that receive a typed query from a person and perform web searches to attempt to generate a set of meaningful answers to the query. An important subclass of NLP systems is NLP parsers, especially grammatical parsers such as Part-Of-Speech tagger, constituency parsers, dependency parsers, and shallow semantic parsers such as SRL (Semantic Role Labeling). Their role is to preprocess text and add additional information to words to prepare it for further usage. Current NLP systems are mostly built on top of NLP parsers and they features and accuracy strongly relies on the information produced by these parsers. Quality of the information delivered by these parsers is strongly correlated with the efficiency of NLP systems.

[0004] FIG. **1** is a block diagram of prior art NLP parsers **100**. The input is a text, which is processed by NLP parser (**102**) consisting of machine learning techniques (**104**) trained on manually annotated corpus (**105**). The parser (**102**) produces the output (**103**) which is then used by other systems/applications (**106**).

[0005] All current parsers are dependent on corpora and therefore on the context in which they were written. Typically corpora are in a context of correctly written, grammatically correct sentences and common syntactic structures which are manually annotated by humans. The system is then trained using this corpus.

[0006] This is one reason that traditional NLP parsers are most accurate on the same type of content they were trained on (the same corpus). That is why always-changing language, such as user generated content (e.g. reviews, tips, comments, tweets, social media content) presents a challenge for NLP parsers built with machine learning techniques. Such content often includes grammatically incorrect sentences and non-standard usage of language, as well as emoticons, acronyms, strings of non-letter characters and so on. This content is constantly changing and expanding with different words or syntactic structures. All of this content has meaningful information and it is easy to understand by humans but it is still difficult for NLP applications to extract meaning out of it.

[0007] One way in which current NLP parsers can be updated or improved (for better accuracy or extracting additional information) is to modify the existing corpus, or create a new corpus or re-annotate existing one and retrain the system with it to understand new content. However, this is a tedious, costly and time-consuming process. For example all current NLP parsers are using corpus as a training data annotated by linguists with predefined tags (e.g. Penn Treebank)—especially use machine-learning algorithms.

[0008] If there was a need to distinct pronominal or adjectival aspect of "that" (giving them different POS tags in different context), one would need to manually re-annotate by linguists all the sentences in the whole corpus that contain word "that" regarding the context of each usage of "that" and retrain the parser.

[0009] Building a particular application on top of and NLP parser requires building a module to transform the NLP parser output into usable data. The application using the parser's output could be coded in a programming language, use a rule based systems or be trained with machine learning techniques—or created with combination of any of the above methods.

[0010] Using NLP parsers can be challenging due to the need to understand the structure of the output and parameters (requires expert knowledge). One of the challenges in NLP parsers is to provide constant consistent structure of information. Also, the output of the NLP parsers rely on the quality of the input text data.

[0011] For example,

[0012] Let's consider these sentences

[0013] 1. John likes math.

[0014] 2. John likes to learn.

[0015] 3. John likes learning math in the evening.

[0016] By using grammar parsers in each case you will get different notations for the object what John likes.

[0017] In constituency parsers the number of levels (depth) in parse tree depends of the length and the grammatical structure of the processed sentences. In a given example the first sentence has 3 levels, the second sentence has 5 levels and the third example has 6 levels in a tree representation.

[0018] In state-of-the-art dependency parsers the structure of the output and number of levels in the dependency tree representation also vary. Adding even one word in the sentence can alter the grammatical information of all the other words.

[0019] The given example about John would produce different structure for each sentence. The first sentence require extracting dependents of "dobj" relation connected to the word "likes", in second all dependents of "xcomp" relation connected to the word "likes" and in third example there is a need of analyzing all governors connected to dependents of "xcomp" related to the word "likes".

[0020] All of the above is the reason why it is difficult for people and especially non-linguists (developers, analysts) to use the parser output and write rules to adjust it to their current needs. E.g. to write information extraction engine to extract information about product features from reviews you could use constituency or dependency parser but you need to write complex algorithms to search through the parse tree. To move to another domain (e.g. extracting information from twitter) the algorithms must be redesigned, and part of the code rewritten.

[0021] To deal with these problems NLP systems use machine learning techniques. This approach has some limitations in terms of accuracy and amount of extracted information.

[0022] There are query languages to process structured data (e.g. SQL for relational databases, Cypher for graph databases, SPARQL-RDF tagged texts (resource description framework)) but there are no languages designed directly to query structure of the natural language (output of the NLP parser).

[0023] It would be desirable to have an efficient framework of storing information decoded from text. It should provide invariant and consistent way of storing information which would be insensitive to different types of input. Having such a framework, would be possible for non-experts to write efficient rules on top of NLP parser's output.

[0024] It would be desirable to have a parser for natural language processing that is built fully algorithmically so it allows for constantly improvement in accuracy, and the addition of new features, without building or re-annotating any corpus. It would desirable to have an NLP system that is more capable than current NLP parsers of dealing with non-typical grammatical input, deals well with constantly-changing language on the web, and produces accurate output which can be stored into an efficient framework of information.

[0025] It would also be desirable to have a query language that can be used on the logical layer across different input contexts allowing humans to write efficient rules for extracting information and is capable of effectively leveraging many NLP systems.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0026] FIG. **1** is a block diagram of as prior art natural language processing system.

[0027] FIG. **2** is a block diagram of a natural language processing environment according to an embodiment.

[0028] FIG. **3** is at block diagram of a natural language processing system according to an embodiment.

[0029] FIG. **4** is at block diagram of a natural language processing system according to an embodiment.

[0030] FIG. **5** is a block diagram of word tagger according to an embodiment.

[0031] FIG. **6** is as flow diagram of as word tagger updating or exception handling method according to an embodiment.

[0032] FIG. **7** is a block diagram of clause divider elements and processes according to an embodiment.

[0033] FIG. **8** is a flow diagram of a clause divider updating or exception handling method according to an embodiment.

[0034] FIGS. **9-14** are diagrams of a clause divider process according to an embodiment.

[0035] FIG. **16** is a block diagram of accomodator according to an embodiment.

[0036] FIG. **17** is a flow diagram of the "it" test according to an embodiment

[0037] FIGS. **18-23** are diagrams illustrating the operation of the accomodator according to an embodiment.

[0038] FIG. **24** is a flow diagram of Language Decoder updating or exception handling method according to an embodiment.

[0039] FIG. **25** is a diagram of a three-level output structure for LD **203** according to an embodiment

[0040] FIG. **26** is a diagram illustrating the operation of a language decoder (LD) according to an embodiment.

[0041] FIG. **27** is a diagram illustrating an overview of an information extraction methodology according to an embodiment.

[0042] FIGS. **28-34** illustrate a user interface of a knowledge browser application according to an embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0043] Embodiments of inventions disclosed herein include improvements on current NLP systems and methods that are especially relevant to processing input that consists of plain text from different types of context. As such, the embodiments disclosed herein provide a highly accessible platform for natural language processing. The output of the disclosed NLP system is easily leveraged by various software applications to analyze large quantities of text from any source in a more sophisticated and flexible manner than previously possible.

[0044] The Language Decoder is a novel fully algorithmic NLP parser that is decoding information out of text and store it into three-level framework which is capable of handling various type of texts from different domain like reviews, news, formal documents, tweets, comments etc.

[0045] The algorithmic nature of the system allows to achieve high accuracy on user generated content.

[0046] Embodiments of the NLP system can thus work properly on different kinds of domains at the same time.

[0047] This three-level hierarchical framework of processed text is leveraged by embodiments of a language decoder query language LDQL as further described herein. The LDQL is particularly easy to use for developers, without requiring specific linguistics training. However, other rule-based query languages could conceivably be developed for extraction (by query) of information from text processed by the LD.

[0048] FIG. **2** is a block diagram of as natural language processing environment **200** according to an embodiment. A natural language processing (NLP) system **200** accepts text as input. Text can include electronic data from many sources, such as the Internet, physical media (e.g. hard disc), a network connected data base, etc. The NLP system **200** includes multiple databases **202**A and multiple processors **202**B. Databases **202**A and processors **202**B can be located anywhere that is accessible to a connected network **208**, which is typically the Internet. Databases **202**A and processors **202**B can also he distributed geographically in the known manner. Data sources **210** include: 1) any source of electronic data that could serve as a source of text input to NLP system **202**, and 2) any source of electronic data that could be searched using the output of NLP system, **202** as described further below.

[0049] Other systems and applications **106** are systems, including commercial systems and associated software applications that have the capability to access and use the output of the NLP system **202** through one or more application programming interface (APIs) as further described below. For example, other systems/applications **106** can include an online application offering its users a search engine for answering specific queries. End users **212** includes individuals who might use applications **106** through one or more of end user devices **121**A. User devices **212**A include without limitations personal computers, smart phones, tablet computers, and so on. In some embodiments, end users **121** access NLP system **202** directly through one or more APIs presented by NLP system **202**.

[0050] FIG. **3** is a block diagram illustrating NLP **202** in more detail of according to an embodiment. Input text is received by Language Decoder (LD) **203**. LD **203** parses and tags (among other things) the input text as further described below. The output of the LD **203** is referred to here as LD output API **205**, and can be operated on by a variety of downstream software applications or systems as described in this document. The format of LD output **205** is described in further detail below, but it is easily accessible to various machine learning, system **104**, which can process it to provide input to yet other systems/applications **106**. Other systems/applications **106** can also directly use LD output **205**. Once the format of LD output **205** is understood, anyone can access desired information from the original input text.

[0051] The LD output **205** can also be operated on by embodiments of an LD query language (LDQL) **204**. LDQL **204** is described according to various embodiments below as an improved query language designed to take advantage of LD output **205**. However LDQL **204** can also operate on the output of any prior NLP system. Also provided in various embodiments is a higher level of APIs (as compared to LD output **205**) for providing machine learning systems **104** and other systems/applications **106** more intuitive access to LD output **205**. Other systems/applications **106** can include semantic databases, Freebase™, Wordnet™, etc.

[0052] In general, LD APIs **206** are relatively easy to use to for other systems seeking to manipulate LD output **205**. However, machine learning systems **104** and other systems/applications **106** can also directly write queries using LDQL **204**.

[0053] FIG. **4** is block diagram showing more detail of an NLP system **202** according to an embodiment. The LD **203** includes a word tagger **203**A which is further described below. The word tagger **203** includes a tokenizer **203**A**1**, and a sentence divider **203**A**2**. The word tagger **203**A communicates its output to a predicate finder **203**B. The LD **203** also includes a clause divider **203**C and an accommodator **203**D.

[0054] FIG. **26** is a diagram summarizing the operation of the LD **203** is an example according to an embodiment. In this example, the text input is the sentence "John is a nice guy and Susanne likes him." Tokenizer and sentence divider (**203**A**1** and **203**A**2**) divide the input text into separate words grouped into sentences (a single sentence is shown here as an example). A corrector module **2604** cooperates with the tokenizer **203**A**1**, the sentence divider **203**A**2** and the word tagger **203**A and applies rules to improve the text input, for example by fixing typos in the input. A named entity recognition module **2602** locates and classifies elements such as names of persons, names of organizations, names of locations, etc.

[0055] The word tagger **203**A labels each word with a tag from the proprietary tagset previously described. The predicate finder **203**B builds predicates from verb components. Then the clause divider **203**C joins words into scraps, groups them into separate clauses, and determines relationships and types of those clauses. Next the accommodator **203**D converts scraps within clauses into phrases and determines relationships and types of those phrases. At the end of the process, the accommodator determines types and relationships of each word within each phrase. The output **205** of the accommodator as shown is in a human readable form in contrast to tree-style output of various prior systems. The original sequence of the input words is preserved and the relationships, types, tags, etc. are simple to view.

[0056] Word Tagger Methodology

[0057] Contrary to all prior-art word taggers, present word tagger does not use any of machine learning techniques and contains only human-written disambiguation rules.

[0058] Word taggers rules are described by a language resembling well-known regular expressions, which is comprehensible and easy to change for human operators. Hence, the process of changes is relatively fast, especially in comparison to the prior-art machine learning based algorithms.

[0059] A set of rules is divided into two groups (referred to herein as "exact group" and "inexact group") along with different usages within the tagging algorithm.

[0060] Contrary to machine learning approaches, present word tagger uses its own dictionary to recognize words and assign all possible tags to them. It is proven that word taggers using machine learning techniques achieves higher accuracy for tagging known tokens (words) than unknown. The term "known token" means that token appeared in training corpus at least once. Differential in accuracy for known and unknown tokens is about 7-8% for good parsers (see for example http://nlp.stanford.edu/pubs/CICLing2011-manning-tagging.pdf). Embodiments of the presented word tagger allow new words to be added directly to the referenced dictionary with all possible tags. For example, "google" can be added with tags related to noun as well as verb. The present word tagger contains rules responsible for resolving that kind of ambiguity, so it can automatically handle that problem.

[0061] Word Tagger Output

[0062] Present word tagger provides unique tagset.

[0063] Most important differences between present tagset and prior-art tagsets:

[0064] The present tagset does not exclude particles as a separate tag. The definition of particle is very inconsistent. Therefore, a distinction for adverbs and prepositions is preferred.

[0065] The present tagset provides distinction for prepositions and subordinating conjunctions.

[0066] For determiners, the present tagset provides distinction for adjectival and pronominal function.

[0067] For pronouns, the present tagset provides distinction for relative and interrogative function.

[0068] The process of the Word Tagger

[0069] The input to the word tagger **203** consists of plain text. The text can come from any source such as article, document, user generated content and any other source. Referring to FIG. **5**, a word tagging process according to an embodiment is illustrated. In an embodiment, the input to the word tagger element **103**A is text that is tokenized into sentences and words by preceding elements tokenizer **203**A**1** and sentence divider **203**A**2**. A dictionary **502** is accessed to find words with possible tags. All possible tags are assigned to each word (**504**). The words assigned with all possible tags are input to a dehomonymizer **506** which resolves ambiguities (i.e. situations in which for one word there is more than one possible matching tag). The dehomonymizer **506** operates using exact rules **508** and inexact rules **510** as further described below. After ambiguities (if any) are resolved, tagged text **512** is output by the word tagger **203**. The word tagger output consists of text tokenized into sentences and words, each of which has assigned exactly one tag.

[0070] Exact rules **508** and inexact rules **510** are two groups of rides. Each rule examines the context of a word with an ambiguous tag (that is, more than one possible tag). Such context is not limited or restricted; it can address any element or the text, in both directions at the same time. This is a range

aspect of the claimed invention describing the facility to access or examine any element of the text before or after an ambiguous element, without limit.

[0071] Another aspect of the word tagger **203**A is the manner of expression employed. In order to examine the context of a word, rules permit the creation of patterns and subpatterns which address words and/or their tags and which can be subject to following operations;

[0072] conditionality (for single element or subpattern) (corresponding to "?" regular expression operator),

[0073] alternatives (for single element or subpattern) (corresponding to "|" regular expression operator),

[0074] repetition (for single element or subpattern) (corresponding to "+" and "*" regular expression operator),

[0075] negation for single element or subpattern) (corresponding to "!" regular expression operator).

[0076] This form of rules expands their expressiveness in comparison to prior static look-ups and ranges ("next word is . . . ", there is a . . . word in range of 3 words before" etc.) This in effect allows better description of situations in which a given rule should apply.

[0077] In an embodiment, the rules are applied separately for each sentence according to following algorithm:

[0078] 1. Stop algorithm at any point when there is no ambiguity left in current sentence.

[0079] 2. For all ambiguous words try to apply all exact rules in proper order.

[0080] 3. Apply inexact rules until any is met. Go to step 2.

[0081] Methodology of Improving the Word Tagger and Resolving Exceptions

[0082] FIG. **6** is a flow diagram illustrating a method **600** of improving the word tagger or modifying the word tagger as exceptions occur according to an embodiment. Exceptions include failure of the word tagger to tag an element of input text.

[0083] At **602** an exception indication is received within the system **202**. It is determined which word caused the exception (**604**). The indicated word is searched for in the dictionary **502** (**606**). If the word is not in the dictionary, it is added to the dictionary at **608**, then check if there is an existing set of tags for the word **612**—if so check if the problem is solved **618**, if not—create a new set of rules for the new set of tags **614** and then check if the problem is solved **618**.

[0084] If, after checking **606**, the word is in the dictionary, it is determined which rule is responsible for the exception, and the responsible rule is edited or a new rule is added **610**. In an embodiment, the editing is performed by a person. In another embodiment, the editing is performed by a machine according to a separate rule-making algorithm.

[0085] If the exception is resolved (at **618**), the process ends. If the exception is not resolved, the process returns to **604** to examine which word caused the exception.

[0086] The above methodology of resolving exceptions to the system may become an automated proces.

[0087] Clause Divider Methodology

[0088] Referring to FIG. **4**, the LD **203** includes a predicate finder **203**B and a clause divider **203**C. The output of the word tagger **203**A is received by the predicate finder **203**B. Predicate is understood here as a function over arguments, i.e. it consists of a main verb grouped with other verb components like modals, auxiliaries, negations and particles, contrary to traditional approach where predicate also contains other sentence elements like objects, predicative expressions and adjuncts. Predicate finders **203**B can include any of the known predicate finder methods. The output of the predicate finder **203**B is received by the clause divider **203**C which performs a clause divider methodology according to embodiments.

[0089] Embodiments of the clause divider **203**C comprises an algorithm emulating human reasoning behind dividing text into clauses. To this end, a sequential approach is employed rather than applying patterns to an entire sentence. In effect, collections of one or more words (scraps) are sequentially considered (which is similar to what a human actually does while hearing or reading a sentence) and an attempt is made to assign each scrap to build a clause "on the fly" constantly trying and rejecting different alternatives. This approach simplifies aspects of language decoding, such as handling of nested relative clauses and facilitates the creation of simpler and more accurate rules than those based on patterns.

[0090] Output of the Clause Divider

[0091] According to embodiments, the clause divider provides division for clauses. Clauses can possess at the most one predicate (either finite or non-finite like infinitives, participles and gerunds) and all of its arguments. LD provides connections between clauses based on criteria concerning their function towards their superiors. Clauses can be connected directly or through the nodes. Nodes are sentence elements provided to connecting clauses, e.g. coordinating or subordinating conjunctions. LD provides unique classifications of clauses which correspond to the LD system **202** classification of phrases. Main clauses are distinguished. Other clauses can function as subjects, objects, complements and attributes, and therefore those can he labeled with proper function name (e.g. attribute clause).

[0092] In an embodiment, the clause divider includes at least the following characteristics:

[0093] With reference to one of the current, typical dependency parsers:

[0094] 1. Embodiments provide implicit division into clauses. In referenced parser, derivation from the relations structure is required.

[0095] 2. Coordinating nodes (elements connecting two coordinated clauses (e.g. "and", "but", "or") are distinguished by embodiments. Referenced parser does not provide a distinction between a relation connecting two coordinated clauses and a relation connecting two coordinated phrases or words. In addition, elements connecting a subordinated clause to its superior clause (e.g. "which", "after", "when") are distinguished by embodiments. In typical dependency parser the main connection holds between two verbs representing the clauses; hence the equivalent of a subordinate node has to be connected with a proper verb.

[0096] 3. In the clause divider **203**C, classification is based on different criteria (than in the typical dependency parser) and in consequence not every type from one classification is equivalent to a subset of the types of the other classification (although in a number of situations it is).

[0097] 4. Types of clauses in the LD **202** are equivalent to types of phrases, making the LD system **202** more coherent in comparison to the typical parser. For example, some of referenced parser's relations corresponding to clause types are common with those for phrases and/or words.

[0098] With reference to one of the current, typical constituency parsers:

[0099] 1. Typical constituency parser provides classification that is based on criteria concerning grammatical con-

struction. This is in sharp contrast to the clause divider **203**C, whose criteria is based on a clause's function towards its superior. In effect every type from one classification can match almost any type from the other, depending on the particular situation.

[0100] 2. The LD **202** treats nodes connecting clauses (e.g. "and", "but", "which", "after") as separate elements on a clause level, whereas the referenced parser includes them into the following clause.

[0101] The Process of the Clause Divider

[0102] FIG. **7** is a diagram showing elements of a clause divider **203**C and various tasks performed by the clause divider **203**C. Generally, the clause divider input is text divided into sentences and tokenized into words, along with their tags as assigned by word tagger **203**A. Grammatical information for each sentence is provided by predicate tinder **203**B. The tagged word input is received by a scrapper element or module **702**. The scrapper **702** groups the tagged words into scraps, which are groups of one or more words that are strictly connected, but do not necessarily from a phrase.

[0103] More precisely, a scrap is a maximal set of words that will certainly form a phrase either by itself or along with some other scrap(s). That is, if two elements are able to form two separate phrases, but this is not evident at the point of creating scraps, they become separate scraps. There is an exception to the foregoing. Specifically, prepositions are joined in scraps with following noun phrases in principle, despite the fact that they will later be divided into two separate phrases.

[0104] At **804**, the clause divider **203**C makes a preliminary estimate of which scraps are the strongest candidates to introduce a new clause (that is, which scraps are responsible for dividing the sentence into clauses. The output of the preliminary estimate process **704** is received by a main divider engine **706**, which includes a scrap dispatcher and a correctness evaluator. The scrap dispatcher assigns scraps to appropriate clauses. In an embodiment, this assignment is based on constant interaction between the scrap dispatcher and the correctness evaluator. The correctness evaluator evaluates the decision made by the scrap dispatcher by determining whether the decision generated as correct clause or not. The output of the main divider engine **706** is received by a nodes extraction process **708**. This process extracts nodes as separate elements on a clause level. Relationships between clauses are established by as clause connection detection process **710**. Clause types are detected (e.g. subject, object, complement) by a clause type classification process **712**. The output **714** of the clause divider is text divided into sentences and clauses, which contain words (along with their tags from the word tagger) grouped into scraps. The grouping serves only as an aid in prior and subsequent processes and is not itself a crucial element of the output. The words can also be considered as assigned directly to clauses. Moreover each clause has its proper grammatical information assigned, along with type and connection to its superior clause.

[0105] FIGS. **9-14** are diagrams illustrating a process of the clause divider **203**C module according to an embodiment. Referring to FIG. **9**, the input to the clause divider module **203**C is the sentence "The man I saw last night became my friend." with all words tokenized and tagged by the Word Tagger **203**A module and with predicates grouped and distinguished by the Predicate Finder **203**B module. Scrapper **702** groups words into scraps. For example, determiners are joined with nouns, hence "the man" becomes one scrap (analogous with "my friend"). Referring to FIG. **10**, the preliminary estimation of dividing scraps **704** begins from the last word of a sentence. Predicate "became" is found and added to the predicate stack. Analogous with next predicate "saw". The introduction of dependent clause is detected and therefore predicate "saw" is removed from the top of predicate stack. The first word is reached and the preliminary estimation ends. Referring to FIG. **11** the main divider engine **706** sequentially tries to assign scraps to clauses. First scrap "the man" is assigned to the first clause of temporary stack by default. Second scrap "I" is assigned to the second clause of temporary stack, because the introduction of dependent clause was detected between the first two scraps. Scrap "saw" is assigned to the second clause of temporary stack. Referring to FIG. **12** the main divider engine **706** assigns the scrap "last night" to the second clause of temporary stack. Once the scrap "became" is reached, the clause from the top of the temporary stack is considered as closed, because "became" is a predicate scrap and the clause already possess a predicate scrap "saw". Hence the clause is moved to the final stack and "became" is added to the top clause of the temporary stack. The scrap "my friend" is added to the top clause of the temporary stack. Because all of the scraps were processed, all clauses from temporary stack are moved to the final stack and the process of assigning scraps ends. Referring to the FIG. **13** nodes are extracted. In the considered example there are no scraps that function as nodes, hence the process leaves the clause unaltered. Afterwards the connections of clauses are detected. Because the clause "I saw last night" is interjected right after NP scrap, we consider it dependent clause and hence determine connection from it to "The man became my friend" clause. Moreover in this situation connection between clause "I saw last night" and phrase "The man" is established. The clause connection detection ends. Referring to FIG. **14** the clause "The man became my friend" has no connection to superior clause hence it obtains "main" type. The clause "I saw last night" is connected to superior clause and to superior phrase as well, thus it obtains "complement" type. The process of the Clause Divider **203**C ends and returns output composed of sentence "The man I saw last night became my friend" which contains two clauses: "The man became my friend" and "I saw last night" along with their types, connections and respective scraps.

[0106] Methodology of Improving the Clause Divider **203**C and Resolving Exceptions

[0107] By analyzing eases of wrong divisions, connections and types if clauses or adjusting the clause divider **203**C into different type of content one can decide whether to:

[0108] add or modify new divider candidates.

[0109] add or modify rules in choosing possible alternative divisions.

[0110] add or modify rules in correctness evaluation.

[0111] This provides flexibility and continuous improvement for different types of input context.

[0112] FIG. **8** is a now diagram illustrating method **800** of improving the clause divider or modifying the clause divider as exceptions occur according to an embodiment. Exceptions include failure of the clause divider to divide clauses or determine the proper type or connection of the clauses.

[0113] At **802** an exception indication is received within the system **202**. It is determined if the clause is correctly divided (**804**). If not, it is determined if clause dividing scraps were chosen correctly (**806**). If not, a new candidate is added or the rules responsible for choice are changed (**808**).

[0114] After the changes (**808**) or in case if it was determined, that the dividing scraps were chosen correctly (**806**), it is determined if scraps were correctly distributed to clauses (**810**). If not, scrap dispatcher or correctness evaluator rules are adjusted (**814**).

[0115] After the changes in rules of scrap dispatcher or correctness evaluator (**814**), or in case if it was earlier determined that either scraps were correctly distributed to clauses (**810**) or clause is correctly divided (**808**), it is determined if connections between clauses are correct (**812**). If not, the rules governing connection determination are adjusted (**816**).

[0116] After adjusting the determination rules (**816**) or if the connections between clauses were determined as correct (**812**) it is determined if the clause classifiaction is correct (**818**). If yes, the process ends. Otherwise the clause classification rules are adjusted (**820**).

[0117] The above methodology of resolving exceptions to the system may become an automated proces.

[0118] Accomodator Methodology

[0119] Referring briefly to FIG. **4**, the output of clause divider **203**C is received by an accomodator module **203**D. FIG. **16** is a block diagram of an accomodator module **203**D architecture according to an embodiment. In an embodiment, the accomodator **203**D uses a set of types of phrases (corresponding to simple grammatical types such as predicate, subject, object, complement etc.). The accomodator employs a sequential algorithm, which in one embodiment is based on hand-written rules, but embodiments are not so limited. Maintaining control over rules and having the ability to modify and add rules to the system at will enables the LD **203** to work properly on different kinds of domains (or language contexts) at the same time. This tight control over rules and the adaptability of the rules also provides the ability to handle new domains while avoiding any distortion in the original or prior domain(s). A separate semantic database is referenced to resolve ambiguities with connections (e.g., a semantic n-gram database **1603**). In addition, the accomodator **203**D module uses a method for determining connections between phrases (the "it" test described below with reference to FIG. **17**).

[0120] The accomodator **203**D receives words grouped into scraps and further into clauses (along with connections and types). In other embodiments the accomodator is based on words grouped directly into clauses. A phrase creator module **1602** detects boundaries of every phrase. Then a phrase connection detection module **1604** detects connections between phrases relying on a semantic n-gram database **1603**. A phrase type classification module **1606** denotes types for each phrase in ever clause in a sentence. Then a word component classification module **1608** assigns components to each word within all of the phrases. Finally, as word connection detection module **1610** detects connections between each word within a phrase.

[0121] The accomodator **203**D output **1612** consists of words grouped into phrases, which are further grouped into clauses. The phrases and words have proper connections and types assigned. In an embodiment the accomodator **203**D output is the final output of the LD system **203**, or LD output API 205 as shown in FIG. **4**. As further described in other parts of this document, the output is useable by many other systems via APIs or other programming tools or interfaces. In an embodiment, types of the phrases are determined after the connections; they are evaluated on the basis of the contained words (along with their tags), types of the scraps from which a phrase comes, and types of scraps from which connected phrases come. Although it has proved efficient and accurate to first connect the phrases and classify them afterward, it is just as viable to do it the other way around.

[0122] An advantage of the accomodator over prior modules that perform analogous tasks is that the accomodator **203**D method determines connections between phrases and their grammatical functions in way that is similar to the way in which is human processes language. The accomodator **203**D sequentially considers separate scraps, and chooses, for a set of syntactic possibilities, the one that semantically makes most sense. In an embodiment this is achieved in part though using a database **1603** containing n-grams (representing these syntactic possibilities) along with the quantity of their occurrence in a large corpus. Ambiguities in interpretation are always reduced to a set of syntactic possibilities consisting of a few elements and are then solved on a semantic basis. The result is simple and intuitive for a human to understand. Thus, a human can readily see and understand the decisions the LD **203** makes and, when appropriate, correct its mistakes by modifying rules so that the system is continually improved.

[0123] The accomodator employs an unambiguous criterion for determining connections between phrases, which causes its performance to be reliable and its output to be easily understood by humans. This allows the output of the LD **203** to be more readily incorporated into other existing language applications and their respective rules. As an example, to determine the connection between certain prepositional phrases, the accomodator employs the so-called "it" test, which is illustrated in FIG. **17**. An "it" algorithm according to an embodiment is based on an implementation of the "it" test aided by the semantic n-gram database **1603**. Referring to the example of FIG. **17**, consider the sentence (consisting of one clause) "I recommend coffee with sweetener for your father." To determine if a given clause element is superior, it is replaced with "it". If the original meaning of the sentence is not preserved, the replaced element is indeed the superior element. Otherwise, the replaced element is not the superior element. As shown, for this clause, it is determined that "coffee" is a superior phrase to prepositional phrase "with sweetener".

[0124] FIGS. **18-23** are diagrams illustrating a process of the accomodator **203**D module according to an embodiment. Referring to FIG. **18**, the input to the accomodator module **203**D is the sentence "Construction worker bought coffee with milk and cigarettes." Phrases are created by minor manipulation of scraps, such as merging, dividing and changing the type of scraps. Then phrases are connected. In this instance, "construction worker" is first connected to a predicate because of its position. The "construction worker" phrase is added to a stack of phrases. In an embodiment, only NP and P phrases can be added to the stack. Referring to FIG. **19**, and continuing phrase connection, the predicate "bought" is by default connected to the root. The "construction worker" phrase is removed from the stack because of the appearance of the predicate. Then "coffee" is connected to the predicate because of noun-verbal proximity, and this phrase is put on the stack. In the following operation, two situations are considered. Either "with" connects the phrase on the right with one from the top of the stack, or "with" connects the phrase on the right with the predicate. The first solution is better semantically, therefore this one is selected. Next, "milk" is connected to the "with" because it stands immediately after a

preposition, and "with milk" is added to the stack. Referring to FIG. **20** and continuing with phrase detection, two further situations are considered. "And" links the phrase on the right with one of the phrases from the stack: either "coffee and cigarettes" or "with milk and cigarettes". These two pairs force the following semantic relationships: "bought cigarettes" and "coffee with cigarettes", respectively. The first makes more sense semantically, therefore it is chosen, and it takes over the connection to "bought" from "coffee" and links it to itself. "Cigarettes" is then connected to the "and" phrase because it stands immediately after a CN (connector) phrase.

[0125] Referring to FIG. **21**, the phrases are then classified. The "Construction worker" phrase gets SUBJECT for its type because of its position and connection to the predicate. The predicate phrase type was assigned earlier by the clause divider module **203**C. The "coffee" phrase gets OBJECT for its type because of its position and relationship to the predicate. The "with" scrap type is changed to a PREPOSITION phrase type. Referring to FIG. **22**, the classification of phrases continues. The "milk" phrase gets ATTRIBUTE for its type because of as relationship to a preposition phrase. "And" gets CONNECTOR for its type because it links other phrases. "Cigarettes" gets OBJECT for its type because of its relationship to a particular connector.

[0126] The next operation is word categorization. The word "construction" gets a specifier component because it is a noun specifying a phrase core. Referring to FIG. **23**, word categorization continues. The rest of the words in the sentence are classified as core components because they are single within corresponding phrases and are not modifying any other phrases. Next, words are connected within phrases. All specifying words are connected to the core of the respective phrase. Other words in the sentence are not considered here because they are single within their corresponding phrases.

[0127] Methodology of Improving Accomodator and Resolving Exceptions

[0128] FIG. **15** is a flow diagram illustrating method **1500** of improving the accomodator or modifying the accomodator as exceptions occur according to an embodiment. Exceptions include wrong detection of phrase boundaries or failure of determining type of phrase or its connection.

[0129] At **1502** an exception indication is received within the system **202**. It is determined if the phrase is built correctly (**1504**). If not, it is determined if the problem results from phrase creator (**1506**). If so, the rules of creating phrases are adjusted (**1508**). If it was determined that the problem of wrongly built phrase does not result from phrase creator (**1506**), determine if the problem results from scraps (**1510**). If so, repair scrapper engine (**1514**). If the scrapper engine was repaired (**1514**), the rules of creating phrases were adjusted (**1508**) or if it was determined that the problem does not result from scraps (**1510**) or that the phrase was built correctly (**1504**), it is determined if the connections of the phrases are correct (**1512**). If no, the connection rules are changed or the semantic n-gram database is edited (**1518**). After these changes (**1518**) or if the connection between phrases is determined as correct (**1512**), it is determined if the type of the phrase is correct (**1520**). If so, the process ends. Otherwise the rules for determining type of phrase are adjusted (**1522**).

[0130] The above methodology of resolving exceptions to the system may become an automated proces.

[0131] Methodology for Improving Language Decoder and Resolving Exceptions

[0132] FIG. **24** is a flow diagram illustrating method **2400** of improving the Language Decoder or modifying the Language Decoder as exceptions occur according to an embodiment. Exceptions include failure of the Language Decoder on any level: tokenization, sentence division, word tagging, predicate finder, clause divider or accomodator.

[0133] At **2402** an exception indication is received within the system XX. It is determined if the input text is correctly tokenized (**2404**). If not, adding or changing existing rules in tokenizer is performed (**2408**).

[0134] After the changes (**2408**) or in case if it is determined, that text is correctly divided into sentences (**2406**). If not, adding or changing existing rules in sentence divider is performed (**2412**).

[0135] After the changes (**2412**) or in case if it is determined, that word tagger worked correctly (**2410**). If not, word tagger exception resolving process is started (**600**).

[0136] After the changes (**600**) or in case if it is determined, that predicate finder worked correctly (**2414**). If not, adding or changing existing rules in predicate finder is performed (**2420**).

[0137] After the changes (**2420**) or in case if it is determined, that clause divider worked correctly (**2418**). If not, clause divider exception resolving process is started (**800**).

[0138] After the changes (**800**) or in case if it is determined, that accommodator worked correctly (**2432**). If not, accommodator exception resolving process is started (**1500**).

[0139] The above methodology of resolving exceptions to the system may become an automated process.

[0140] LD Output as a Three-Level Framework of Information Interface

[0141] The output of the LD module **203** is a three-level framework of storing information (words, phrases and clauses). The three-level structure enables efficient organization of information. Embodiments of a three-level LD output framework capture a maximum amount of the information coded into text while maintaining the simplest possible structure for easy access. The first step was to design efficient framework for storing information and then using only algorithms written by humans (no machine learning techniques and corpus) to decode the information from any given text. The output of the LD thus conveys the logical structure of information stored in text, along with the grammatical structure.

[0142] The three-level LD output structure is compositional and predictable and consist of a relatively small number of elements on each level. Having a minimal set of components and relations speeds up the learning process, simplifies writing extraction rules, and can reduce chances of miscategorization. The output of the LD is effectively an easy-to-access interface standardizing the information coded into natural language.

[0143] Description of the Three-Level Framework

[0144] A three-level structure consisting of word-level, phrase-level and clause-level stores the information coded in text. The LD **203** is a three-level structure, invariant of the text processed through the system. The text could be short, simple sentences written in proper grammar, short non-proper grammar twitter content or long non-proper grammar reviews. This contrasts with prior systems, in which the parameters are

responsible for attributes and the structure at the same time, which can produce varying results depending on the context of some fragment of text.

[0145] In an example from BACKGROUND Section:

[0146] 1. John Likes Math.

[0147] 2. John Likes to Learn.

[0148] 3. John Likes Learning Math in the Evening.

[0149] When using LD parser in each case one gets consistent notation for the object which John likes. In the first example "math" is an object, in the second example "to learn" is object clause (its role is the same, but on different level) and in the third example "learning math in the evening" is also an object clause. This approach allows to separate grammatical layer from logical layer, so that a single rule can cover many different syntactic structures of the sentence.

[0150] As a result information extraction rules written on top of the LD are efficient. Fewer rules need to be written to capture more information, and the information is less ambiguous.

[0151] FIG. **25** is as diagram of three-level output structure for LD **203** according to an embodiment. In an embodiment a word is a minimal unit of information. Combinations of words (possibly also one-element) form a reference to some entity, concept, action etc. The word's meaning can only be understood in context of the phrase to which it belongs and this is described in the LD by a word component. The connection further indicates which other word inside the phrase is directly concerned by the role of the former. In an embodiment, a phrase is a group of words which acts as a single unit referring to some entity, action etc. A combination of phrases in as clause can produce a minimal statement that can be part of as more elaborate message. The internal meaning of a clause neglecting its context, which is managed by clause level) is determined by contained phrases and their relations. The role of given phrase in the clause is represented in the LD by the phrase type and the connection indicates to which other phrase this type relates.

[0152] In an embodiment, a clause is a group of phrases that form a single minimal statement. Its internal meaning can he analyzed separately (and this is done by the LD on a phrase level), but only its context in combination with other clauses can lead to understanding the text and its meaning. This is caused by the fact that the original, literal meaning of the clause is often significantly altered by its relation towards some other clauses. The LD provides such information about relations between clauses as well as their functions in the whole utterance.

[0153] The three-level framework consists of elements on each level and allows for the addition of layers storing new kinds of information. This 3-level structure allows to integrate the decoded information with semantic databases (e.g. freebase™, wordnet™), ontologies taxonomies in order to add additional semantic information into existing components on the phrase and/or word level.

[0154] The clause level has additional layer of information about the tense (e.g. present simple, past simple) and construction (e.g. positive, negative, question). In embodiment, different layers of information are kept separate for several reasons. Layers of abstraction can be easily formed by combining only the relevant types of information and ignoring the other (e.g. if one needs only information about phrases division and not their types). It is possible to add other, new layers (e.g. coreference) in addition to the existing ones without distorting the already present information thanks to the separation of layers.

[0155] The three level framework can be seen and treated as an interface for information extraction from text. The information can be coded into different layers of the text. For example, in "He owns that red ear" the information about the car is described as "red" on the word level. In "The boy threw that ball" the information about which object was thrown is coded on a phrase level. In "It started to rain after we got home" the circumstances are stored on the clause level. It is also possible to include higher levels on which the information can be stored, e.g. the causation can be seen as pattern of clauses connected with certain nodes ("[If] you eat too much chocolate [then] your stomach will hurt"), therefore the information is coded into higher level than clause. Likewise it is possible to include yet higher levels, building patterns on top of other patterns. The three-level framework of the LD output reflects that natural division of information into separate levels and provide fundaments for creating higher level patterns to capture information store in multiple sentences.

[0156] Language Decoder Query Language

[0157] 1. General Description and Purpose

[0158] LDQL **204** is a declarative, domain-specific querying language for text-structuring NLP systems outputs' information extraction. It is based on first-order predicate calculus and enables users to predefine their own formulas (including recursive definitions).

[0159] LDQL **204** queries can express a wide range of actions—from simple listing all subjects to actions as complicated as e.g. finding opinions about people.

[0160] LDQL **204** queries have SQL-like syntax, which is relatively easy to write and read for human operator, and does not require linguistic knowledge from them. The queries can be also created automatically, which is described below.

[0161] Our implementation of LDQL **204** is optimized for Language Decoder, however LDQL **204** can also be implemented for other text-structuring NLP systems, e.g. Stanford Parser or Illinois SRL.

[0162] It is possible (e.g. with the use of LD **203** and LDQL **204**) to formulate queries in natural language, and then translate them to [high-level] LDQL **204** queries.

[0163] 2. LDQL in Comparison to Other Query Languages

[0164] There are some prior-art query languages which were used for NLP (e.g. Prolog, SPARQL, IQL). As compared with them, LDQL **204** has some unique features:

- **[0165]** it was designed for querying NLP parsers' output: it's types and relations reflect 3-level information structure, regardless of particular parser's output structure,
- **[0166]** it is based on full first-order predicate calculus,
- **[0167]** users can define their own formulas (including recursive ones) within the language, and use them in queries, or other definitions.

[0168] LDQL **204** queries have SQL-like syntax: a SELECT section containing goals of extraction, an optional FROM section for fixing the search range (search by clauses, sentences, or whole text at once), and an optional WHERE section, containing restrictions on extracted objects in the form of (syntactically sugared) first-order formulas, where the variable's range over 3-level structure of words, phrases and clauses (regardless of particular parser's output structure).

[0169] E.g. to extract pairs of subject-predicate phrases from given text we could use the following LDQL **204** query:

```
SELECT P:sub AS Actor,
      P:prd AS Action
   FROM clauses
WHERE sub.phrase_type='subject'
      AND prd.phrase_type='predicate'
      AND sub->prd
```

[0170] LDQL's orientation towards formula composition encourages users to building new formulas out of previously defined ones, which we consider crucial in dealing with natural language's complexity; for example instead of the following pair of queries:

```
SELECT P:x,P:y
   WHERE x.phrase_type='subject'
      AND y.phrase_type='object'
      AND x.phrase_core_base='crocodile'
      AND EXISTS P:z (z.phrase_type='predicate'
         AND x->z
            AND y->z);
SELECT P:q,P:w
   WHERE q.phrase_type='subject'
      AND w.phrase_type='object'
      AND w.phrase_core_base='lamb'
      AND EXISTS P:z (z.phrase_type='predicate'
         AND q->z
         AND w->z)
```

[0171] We would rather abstract the common pattern for finding "subject→predicate←object" connection:

```
DEFINE subobj_connection(P:s,P:o) AS
   s.phrase_type='subject'
   AND o.phrase_type='object'
   AND EXISTS P:p (p.phrase_type='predicate'
      AND s->p
      AND o->p)
SELECT P:x,P:y
   WHERE x.phrase_core_base='crocodile' AND subobj_connection(x,y);
SELECT P:x,P:y
   WHERE y.phrase_core_base='lamb' AND subobj_connection(xy)
```

[0172] which makes the queries more "granular", and thus easy to maintain (in analogy with subroutines in imperative programming languages).

[0173] As far as we're concerned, this is the first use of full first-order query language for unstructured text information extraction. The presence of EXISTS quantifier (in addition to the Boolean connectives AND, OR and NOT present in e.g. SQL, Prolog or—in some flavor—SPARQL) with the ability to write recursive formula definitions makes LDQL **204** expressively stronger formalism than e.g., pure SQL, Prolog or even SPARQL (which seems to have some quantification constructs, but no recursive formula definitions). An example benefit of having such an expressive power (also present in e.g. Gödel, or—indirectly—Cypher, or any imperative language like Java) is the ability to describe closures of relations:

[0174] suppose we would like to know whether two phrases are linked by a sequence of one or more "→" connections. In LDQL **204** we could simply write recursive formula:

```
DEFINE linked(P:x,P:y) AS
   x!=y
   AND (x->y
      OR EXISTS P:z (z!=x
            AND z!=y
```

-continued

```
      AND x->z
      AND NOT z->x
      AND linked(z,y)))
```

[0175] Which literally reads "x and y linked if x→y or x→z for some z, such that z is linked with y"—notice the circularity (recursion). Because of LDQL's expressive strength, some measures need to he taken to avoid infinite evaluations (the "x→z AND NOT z→x" and "z!=x AND z!=y" restrictions).

[0176] 3. Merging LDQL with External Systems

[0177] LDQL **204** could be implemented to operate on the output of any NLP text-structuring system (e.g. Stanford Parser), provided that the implementation will contain accessors to attributes that given system offers.

[0178] LDQL **204** can be connected to external semantic bases (e.g. Freebase, Wordnet), lexical data bases (e.g. Wordnet), domain-specific data bases, ontologies, word banks, taxonomies, etc., in order to support it with more semantic content.

[0179] LDQL **204** rules can be hand-written, generated automatically or semi-automatically by either connecting LDQL **204** to sources of semantic content (as above), or by machine learning means (in case of LD's output it is possible to extract common structures out of annotated text corpora by means of unification heuristics or e.g. Koza's genetic programming), or both, or generated semi-automatically by merging any of the methods mentioned.

[0180] 4. LDQL Implementation

[0181] The LDQL **204** implementation for LD **203** consists of three modules: parser, optimizer and compiler, as shown on FIG. **35**.

[0182] The parser module **3508** processes text of LDQL script **3502** (i.e. list of definitions **3504** and queries **3506**) in order to produce its abstract representation.

[0183] The optimizer module **3510** takes the parser's output and performs additional annotations to guide compiler.

[0184] The compiler module **3512** takes annotated abstract representation and generates as php/c/some-imperative-language output program **3514** which, given valid NLP parser output **103** returns the query's results **3516** for that output.

[0185] FIG. **27** is a diagram illustrating a process of information extraction from plain text according to an embodiment. This is an example of what is achieved by a software application (generally an example of a software application **106**) written to apply LDQL **204** rules for a specific purpose of extracting information from multiple plain text online reviews. The input text "The chicken in this restaurant is very delicious and the music is awful! I want to say the sea view is awesome!" is operated on by **203**, which outputs (**2702**) the sentences in the form of naked API **205**, which as previously described maintains the original word sequence. Previously chosen LDQL rules are applied (**2704**) to the output of the LD process, and the result is a two-column table (subject and complement) **2706** that lists the sea view is awesome, the chicken is very delicious, and the music is awful. This tabulated output is easily accessed for further operations.

[0186] With using output of Language Decoder it is possible to build language understanding applications or language understanding engines. It can be done by applying on top of LD one or more of the following: LDQL rules, raw code

(e.g. PHP, Java, C#, .NET, C++), machine learning algorithms (supervised or unsupervised).

[0187] Usage of Language Decoder

[0188] Language Decoder is the component technology for building application in many areas including (but not limited to):

[0189] Information Extraction

[0190] Sentiment Analysis and Extraction

[0191] Event and Relationship Extraction

[0192] Opinion Mining

[0193] Text Mining

[0194] Document indexing

[0195] Text Summarization/curation of information

[0196] Speech processing

[0197] Question&Answering

[0198] Text proofing

[0199] Translations

[0200] Natural Language Search/Structured Search

[0201] Query expansion

[0202] Automated scoring (essay scoring)

[0203] Language Decoder may be used to process any type of texts including (but not limited to):

[0204] User generated content,

[0205] Social media content, microblogging (e.g. twitter)

[0206] Reviews (e.g. review sites content, websites, wikipedia, etc.)

[0207] Formal language documents

[0208] Articles and new

[0209] Biomedical free text

[0210] Research papers

[0211] System built on top of language decoder can represent many domains including (but not limited to):

[0212] Big data

[0213] Customer feedback analytics

[0214] Social listening/sentiment analytics

[0215] Email analysis

[0216] Text Analytics

[0217] Search

[0218] Voice Search

[0219] Advertising

[0220] Predictive Analytics

[0221] Google Glasses and other reality devices

[0222] Voice interface

[0223] Information Extraction Example: Knowledge Browser

[0224] Bubble visualization is a concept of showing multilevel structure of knowledge representation (LDQL extracted) in a form of clickable bubbles.

[0225] This representation can vary in size, color and position of bubbles representing frequency and additional properties (for example, color palette can represent polarity of detected object sentiments).

[0226] This multilevel approach allows to browse (e.g. zoom in or zoom out) through summarized knowledge encoded in analysed text, which can help to understand wider context along with more exact properties of extracted data.

[0227] This concept does not restrict data to be in specific format or order, pairs (object—opinion), triplets, quadruples (suggestion, aim, suggestion modifier, aim modifier) and many more are suitable here. Also additional categorization can be applied on top of extracted data to improve knowledge integrity and understanding. It can be achieved in multiple ways, starting from applying external lexicons or semantic databases (e.g. Freebase, FrameNet), through human made categorization to even logical correlations.

[0228] Bubble visualization concept is used in the information extraction example application described below.

[0229] FIGS. **28-34** illustrate a user interface of a knowledge browser application. In this example, the knowledge browser is for San Francisco restaurants, but any other subject matter is possible. The knowledge browser is an embodiment of an application **106** that can help people to make quickly learn, what they want to know about San Francisco restaurants. By summarizing some reviews about eateries to a very user-friendly form of so-called bubbles, users can browse through multiple food-oriented categories and find exactly what people said about particular aspects of their experiences in restaurants. The knowledge browser application illustrates some of the possibilities for applying LDQL **204** rules to user-written reviews processed by the LD **204**. The rules used in this example are built to extract pairs of entities (object and related opinion) from user-generated reviews.

[0230] With reference to FIG. **28**, after choosing a particular restaurant (by search input or by clicking on one from a list of popular restaurants), the application displays a set of bubbles grouped into five clusters. The central bubble of each cluster represents a different meta-category. Each meta-category has different sets of category bubbles attached to it. This set depends on what people wrote in reviews about chosen restaurant.

[0231] With reference to FIG. **29**, after clicking on category bubble, the application displays a set of extracted objects attached to the chosen category (FOOD in this example). Bubbles can differ in size and color to visually convey information. In this example, the size of a bubble represents object frequency in processed user reviews. More frequent objects appear on bigger bubbles. The present example shows that people wrote more about meal and dish than course or amount. The color of a bubble can vary from green through orange to red to represent the sum of positive and negative opinions about the particular object. In the present example object portion has relatively more negative opinions than object brunch so it is closer to being red in color.

[0232] With reference to FIG. **30**, after clicking on an object bubble, the application shows the set of opinions about the chosen object (portion in this example). Bubbles can differ in size and color here as well. Here, the size of a bubble or radius represents opinion about the particular object frequency in processed user reviews. In this example small portion appeared more frequently in reviews than good portion. The color of the opinion bubble is constrained to three values: red, green and grey. Red opinions are meant to be negative, green positive and grey are treated as neutral. In this example opinions about size of a portion are rather negative (small, tiny, extremely small) but opinions about general quality of portion are certainly positive (good, perfect, healthy).

[0233] Referring to FIG. **31**, double clicking on an opinion bubble shows a general view of every object, which was connected to the chosen opinion. This view gives a better insight into what generally, despite categorization, was related to the chosen opinion (good in this example). For example, the user can look up what was good in the selected restaurant. Bubbles showed in this screen have the same properties (color and size) as in previous steps.

[0234] Referring to FIG. **32**, a similar view can be obtained by clicking on a central category bubble on the screen of FIG. **28**. This displays a graphic of a set of opinions about an entire

category (FOOD in this example), which means that all of those opinion bubbles are related to some objects categorized as FOOD.

[0235] Referring to FIGS. **33** and **34**, the application provides an option for comparing two restaurants. By placing two instances of bubbles next to each other, the user can browse through categories and objects in one instance (representing one restaurant) and simultaneously choices are transferred to the second instance showing differences.

[0236] Bubble size and bubble color are just examples of visual properties that can be used to convey the desired information. Any other visual characteristic that can be varied in a similar manner would be just as appropriate.

[0237] The various functions or processes disclosed herein may be described as data and/or instructions embodied in various computer-readable media, in terms of their behavioral, register transfer, logic component, transistor, layout geometries, and/or other characteristics. Computer-readable media in which such formatted data and/or instructions may be embodied include, but are not limited to, non-volatile storage media in various forms (e.g., optical, magnetic or semiconductor storage media) and carrier waves that may be used to transfer such formatted data and/or instructions through wireless, optical, or wired signaling media or any combination thereof. Examples of transfers of such formatted data and/or instructions by carrier waves include, but are not limited to, transfers (uploads, downloads, e-mail, etc.) over the internet and/or other computer networks via one or more data transfer protocols (e.g., HTTP, FTP, SMTP, etc.). When received within a computer system via one or more computer-readable media, such data and/or instruction-based expressions of components and/or processes under the system described may be processed by a processing entity (e.g., one or more processors within the computer system in conjunction with execution of one or more other computer programs.

[0238] Aspects of the systems and methods described herein may be implemented as functionality programmed into any of a variety of circuitry, including programmable logic devices (PLDs), such a field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), programmable array logic (PAL) devices, electrically programmable logic and memory devices and standard cell-based devices, as well as application specific integrated circuits (ASICs). Some other possibilities for implementing aspects of the system include: microcontrollers with memory (such as electronically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM)), embedded microprocessors, firmware, software, etc. Furthermore, aspects of the system may be embodied in microprocessors having software-based circuit emulation, discrete logic (sequential and combinatorial), custom devices, fuzzy (neural) logic, quantum devices, and hybrids of any of the above device types. Of course the underlying device technologies may be provided in a variety of component types, e.g., metal-oxide semiconductor field-effect transistor (MOSFET) technologies like complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS), bipolar technologies like emitter-coupled logic (ECL), polymer technologies (e.g., silicon-conjugated polymer and metal-conjugated polymer-metal structures), mixed analog and digital, etc.

[0239] Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, throughout the description and the claims, the words "comprise," "comprising," and the like are to be construed in an inclusive sense as opposed to an exclusive or exhaustive sense: that is to say, in a sense of "including, but not limited to." Words using the singular or plural number also include the plural or singular number respectively. Additionally, the words "herein," "hereunder," "above," "below," and words of similar import refer to this application as a whole and not to any particular portions of this application. When the word "or" is used in reference to a list of two or more items, that word covers all of the following interpretations of the word: any of the items in the list, all of the items in the list and any combination of the items in the list.

[0240] The above description of illustrated embodiments of the systems and methods is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the systems and methods to the precise forms disclosed. While specific embodiments of, and examples for, the systems components and methods are described herein for illustrative purposes, various equivalent modifications are possible within the scope of the systems, components and methods, as those skilled in the relevant art will recognize. The teachings of the systems and methods provided herein can be applied to other processing systems and methods, not only for the systems and methods described above.

[0241] The elements and acts of the various embodiments described above can be combined to provide further embodiments. These and other changes can be made to the systems and methods in light of the above detailed description.

[0242] In general, in the following claims, the terms used should not be construed to limit the systems and methods to the specific embodiments disclosed in the specification and the claims, but should be construed to include all processing systems that operate under the claims. Accordingly, the systems and methods are not limited by the disclosure, but instead the scope of the systems and methods is to be determined entirely by the claims.

[0243] While certain aspects of the systems and methods are presented below in certain claim forms, the inventors contemplate the various aspects of the systems and methods in any number of claim forms. For example, while only one aspect of the systems and methods may be recited as embodied in machine-readable medium, other aspects may likewise be embodied in machine-readable medium. Accordingly, the inventors reserve the right to add additional claims after filing the application to pursue such additional claim forms for other aspects of the systems and methods.

1. (canceled)

2. A system for natural language processing (NLP) comprising:

at least one processor configured to execute a process comprising extracting and structuring information from output of an NLP parser, the process further comprising,

receiving input comprising output from the NLP parser;

receiving a description of conditions characterizing fragments of the NLP parser output, wherein the fragments correspond to information to be extracted; and

receiving a description of a form in which the extracted information is to be structured, wherein the description of conditions and the description of a form are provided as one or more queries, wherein each query comprises,

a target section describing the form in which the extracted information is to be structured; and

a conditions section describing conditions characterizing the fragments of the NLP parser output to be extracted.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein:
the conditions section comprises one or more atomic formulas connected with zero or more logical connectives, and wherein a set of possible atomic formulas comprises:
relation of identity;
relation of membership;
relation of inclusion;
relations capturing properties of character strings;
relations capturing the structure of NLP parser output; and
the set of possible logical connectives comprises,
negation;
conjunction; and
alternative.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein:
the description of conditions and the description of a form are provided in a form of one or more queries, and zero or more user-defined predicate definitions;
a conditions section of each query, and each user-defined predicate definition comprises a first order logic formula with variables ranging over fragments of the NLP parser output: and
the set of possible atomic formulas comprises,
first order predicate of identity;
first order predicate of membership;
first order predicate of inclusion;
first order predicates capturing properties of character strings;
first order predicates capturing the structure of NLP parser output; and
each of the user-defined predicates; and
each group of two or more queries may comprise a same user-defined predicate.

5. The system of claim 2, further comprising a compiler, wherein the process further comprises converting description of conditions and the description of a form into a program, wherein input of the program comprises the NLP parser output.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein:
the program comprises a sequence of one or more operations to be performed on the NLP parser output in order to extract and structure the information; and
the compiler comprises,
a parser for converting the description of conditions and the description of a form, into an abstract syntax tree;
a proper compiler, for converting the abstract syntax tree into the sequence of the operations to be performed on the NLP parser output.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the compiler further comprises an optimizer configured to modify the abstract syntax tree and the sequence of the operations.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein the proper compiler produces a standalone executable.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein the system further comprises a virtual machine, and wherein input of the virtual machine comprises the NLP parser output.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein input of the virtual machine further comprises the sequence of the operations to be performed on the NLP parser output.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the proper compiler produces the bytecode for the virtual machine.

12. A computer-implemented method for natural language queries of textual data, the method comprising:
at least one processor executing a process comprising extracting and structuring information from output of an NLP parser, the process further comprising,
receiving input comprising output from the NLP parser;
receiving a description of conditions characterizing fragments of the NLP parser output, wherein the fragments correspond to information to be extracted; and
receiving a description of a form in which the extracted information is to be structured, wherein the description of conditions and the description of a form are provided as one or more queries, wherein each query comprises,
a target section describing the form in which the extracted information is to be structured; and
a conditions section describing conditions characterizing the fragments of the NLP parser output to be extracted.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein:
the conditions section comprises one or more atomic formulas connected with zero or more logical connectives, and wherein a set of possible atomic formulas comprises:
relation of identity;
relation of membership;
relation of inclusion;
relations capturing properties of character strings;
relations capturing the structure of NLP parser output; and
wherein the set of possible logical connectives comprises,
negation;
conjunction; and
alternative.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein:
the description of conditions and the description of a form are provided in a form of one or more queries, and zero or more user-defined predicate definitions;
a conditions section of each query, and each user-defined predicate definition comprises a first order logic formula with variables ranging over fragments of the NLP parser output: and
the set of possible atomic formulas comprises,
first order predicate of identity;
first order predicate of membership;
first order predicate of inclusion;
first order predicates capturing properties of character strings;
first order predicates capturing the structure of NLP parser output; and
each of the user-defined predicates; and
each group of two or more queries may comprise a same user-defined predicate.

15. The method of claim 12, further comprising a compiler, wherein the process further comprises converting description of conditions and the description of a form into a program, wherein input of the program comprises the NLP parser output.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein:
the program comprises a sequence of one or more operations to be performed on the NLP parser output in order to extract and structure the information; and
the compiler comprises,
a parser for converting the description of conditions and the description of a form into an abstract syntax tree;

a proper compiler, for converting the abstract syntax tree into the sequence of the operations to be performed on the NLP parser output.

17. The method of claim **16**, wherein the compiler further comprises an optimizer configured to modify the abstract syntax tree and the sequence of the operations.

18. The method of claim **16**, wherein the proper compiler produces a standalone executable.

19. The method of claim **16**, wherein the system further comprises a virtual machine, and wherein input of the virtual machine comprises the NLP parser output.

20. The method of claim **19**, wherein input of the virtual machine further comprises the sequence of the operations to be performed on the NLP parser output.

21. The method of claim **20**, wherein the proper compiler produces the bytecode for the virtual machine.

* * * * *