



CS60057

Speech & Natural Language Processing

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Lecture 2

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Ambiguity

I made her duck.

- How many different interpretations does this sentence have?
- What are the reasons for the ambiguity?
- The categories of knowledge of language can be thought of as ambiguity resolving components.
- How can each ambiguous piece be resolved?
- Does speech input make the sentence even more ambiguous?
 - Yes – deciding word boundaries

Ambiguity

- Some interpretations of : **I made her duck.**
 1. I cooked *duck* for her.
 2. I cooked *duck* belonging to her.
 3. I created a toy duck which she owns.
 4. I caused her to quickly lower her head or body.
 5. I used magic and turned her into a *duck*.
- duck – morphologically and syntactically ambiguous:
noun or verb.
- her – syntactically ambiguous: **dative or possessive.**
- make – semantically ambiguous: **cook or create.**
- make – syntactically ambiguous:
 - **Transitive** – takes a direct object. => 2
 - **Di-transitive** – takes two objects. => 5
 - **Takes a direct object and a verb.** => 4

Resolve Ambiguities (cont.)

I made her duck

