

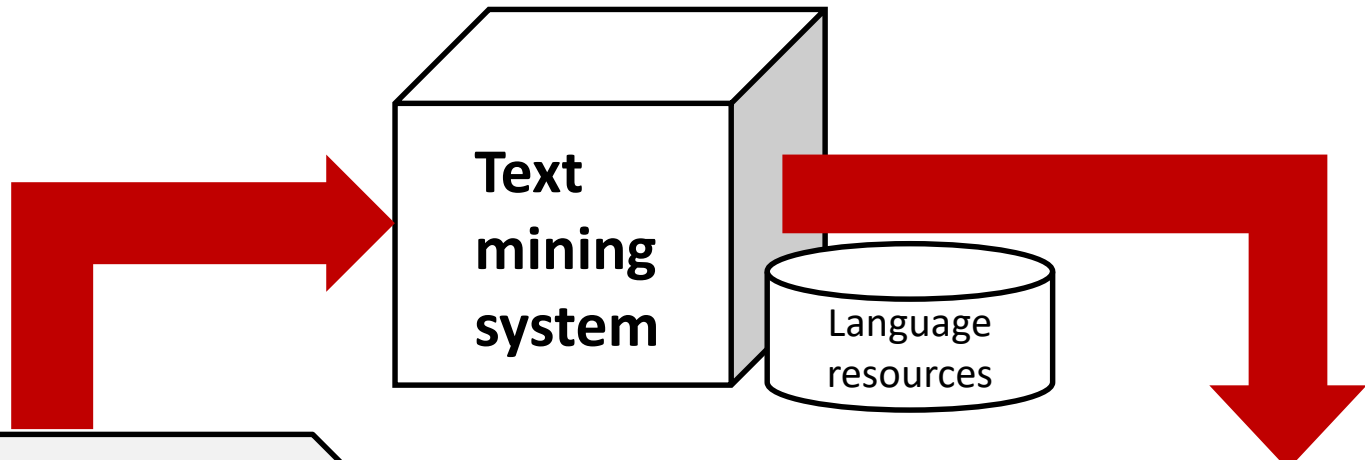
Perspectives from IMIA Working Group "LaMB – Language and Meaning in Biomedicine"

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Working Group LaMB

- Topic: Language and Meaning in Biomedicine
- Founded in the 80ies as "Medical Concept Representation"
- Focus
 - Use and interpretation of language in
 - clinical documentation
 - biomedical research
 - Systems that provide standardised meaning
 - terminologies
 - classifications
 - ontologies



*St.p. TE eines exulc.
sek.knot.SSM li US
dors. Level IV, 2,4mm
Tumordurchm.
Sentinnel LK ing. li.
tumorfr.*

Code (e.g. SNOMED CT)	Value	Context
254730000 Superficial spreading malignant melanoma of skin		392521001 History of
301889008 Excision of malignant skin tumor		392521001 History of
47224004 Skin of posterior surface of lower leg 7771000 Left		
81827009 Diameter 258673006 millimeter	2.41	
258403002 Lymph node level IV		
94339008 Secondary malignant neoplasm of inguinal lymph nodes		15240007 Current 2667000 Absent

Barriers in interpreting clinical language

- Telegram style
 - *"St.p. TE eines exulc. sek.knot.SSM li US dors. Level IV, 2,4mm Tumordurchm. Sentinell LK ing. li. tumorfr."*
- Spelling / typing errors
 - Simvastatin **Simvastat Sinvastatin Simvastastin Simvastain Simvastad Simbastatin Simavstatin Simavastatin Simastatin Symvastatin Simvastation Simvaststin Simvatatin Simvatin Simvatstain Simvstatin** (drug names in discharge summaries)
- Synonyms, Variants:
 - *MI, Myocardial infarction, Heart attack*
- Ambiguities
 - RTA = *renal tubular acidosis*
 - RTA = *road traffic accident*

Barriers in interpreting patients' language in social networks

Wassereinlagerungen, **Trombose**,
Verdacht darauf das ich vielleicht **etwas**
mit der Bandscheibe habe, Verdacht auf
Herzinsufizienz (Herzschwäche).

stoy tomando **zolof**
para ataques de
ansiedad y
miedo.puedo
conbinarla con **st**
john work?

la dernier fois que j'ai
manger un morceaux
de Durian j'ai été
malade à crevé 3j
(**crise de fois** et
méchante **nosé** avec
de la fièvre)

Ontem denoite e hoje
demanha **fui aos pes** e
fiz fezes verde-
musgo...isso e muto
grave??ou e normal??

I have been to a clinc
3 times and theyve
ruled out various **stds**
(**clamydia, gonnorea,**
Hep B+C, Hiv) and
bladder and tract
infections.

Barriers in interpreting patients' language in social networks

- Misspellings of key language elements
 - expert terms: diseases, drugs, labs, organisms
- Mistyping / misspelling of common language terms, especially when
 - low literacy
 - writing in second language
- Simplified writing
 - no diacritics
 - no capitalization
- Colloquial speech / slang
- Use of regional dialects

LaMB WG: Challenges for connecting patient and clinicians' discourse

- Building of large corpora of patient language (postings and queries)
 - Automated term acquisition
 - Study of language phenomena
- Consumer health vocabularies
 - linkage with standard terminologies
- Improved user interfaces
 - spelling support
- Cooperation with patient associations

Contact

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