The ANTHEM Project (LRE 62-007)

Advanced Natural Language Interface
for Multilingual Text Generation in Healthcare

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The authors will present ongoing efforts in the framework of the LRE project ANTHEM, that is co-financed by the European Union within the "Linguistic Research and Engineering" program. The objective of ANTHEM is to develop a portable prototype of a multilingual natural language interface that allows users of healthcare information systems to enter diagnostic expressions using their own natural language and to have this input translated in whatever formal, structured or natural language. The project results from the collaboration of researchers from various disciplines: medicine, computer science and linguistics.

The ANTHEM consortium is coordinated by W. Ceusters of RAMIT vzw (Ghent University Hospital) and further consists of the Institute of Modern Languages of the University of Namur (G. Deville), the IAI of the University of Saarbrücken (O. Streiter), the CRP-CU of Luxembourg (P. Mousel), the University of Liège (C. Gérardy), Datasoft Management nv - Oostende (J. Devlies) and the Military Hospitals in Brussels (D. Penson).

The authors first discuss the medical corpus collection, formating, sampling and analysis in the prospect of the ANTHEM sublanguage modeling. The resulting generic language representation model is then presented. Next, the authors will focus on some operational aspects of ANTHEM. After a short description of the prototype's architecture, the specification of its application programming interface (API) will be presented. Finally, the current status of the prototype's implementation will be outlined.
To conclude, options for further developments will be outlined in terms of an augmentation of the lingwares and of the distribution of the prototype components.