

# TIMEX2 Guideline Issues: Markability and Extent

Temporal Expression Recognition and Normalization  
(TERN) Evaluation Workshop  
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# English Guideline Gaps on Markability

- Various uses of “time” – some markable, some not
  - “this time” (meaning “this case, this situation”); “the first time ever” (meaning “the first occasion ever”)
  - Versus the markable: “we don’t have much time to find the answers”
- “It” – is “it” referential in cases such as the following?
  - “It has been a strange couple of days.”
  - “It is time for the news.”
  - Pronouns rarely precede their antecedent, except in obvious preposed constructions.
- Within “names”. The guidelines prohibit tagging within a “name,” but what about these, where the date really is referring to a date? :
  - “The Coach of the Year”
  - “2001 National Conference for Agribusiness”
- Miscellaneous conundrums not covered by guidelines:
  - every day vs. everyday (“typical”)
  - Light year, megawatt hour, lifetime
  - short-term, long-term, “short- and long-term”
  - modern, history

# English Guideline Gaps on Extent

- Semantic Heads vs. Syntactic Heads
  - Partitives: “much of the week”, “most of the year” “all of the year”, “the rest of the year” (cf. “all year”)
  - Groups: “a group of years”, “a string of quarters”
  - Other modifiers: “earlier in the day” (cf. “earlier that day”), “later on Friday” (cf. “late Friday), “near the end of the first day”
- Premodifiers and head both “trigger” words: “her September 2 birthday”, “the June 2004 period”, “a December 12 deadline”
  - Guidelines say mark something as one tag if “the two terms express values for a single unit of time, like “twelve o’clock midnight””
  - Are these the same? Cf. “a deadline of December 12”
  - Also: “a 14-hour day”

# Chinese Guideline Issues on Markability

- Sequencing and ordering expressions
  - Phrases ending in "... (之)前/后(後)" (*after ...*)
    - non-markable “武昌起義後” **vs.** "(在)....(的)时候" (*the time when ...*)
- The expressions "按期" "如期" (on time)
- Characters having different meanings in different contexts
  - 年: 年底(*end of the year*) vs. 年会 (*annual conference*) – both markable?

# Chinese Guideline Issues on Extent

- Things that sometimes correspond to prepositions in English
  - “(之)前” (before/ago)” and “(之)后” (after)
    - the character 前 (before) excluded: 美国佛罗里达州布劳沃德县已于当地时间星期六午夜(local time Saturday midnight) 前 (before)完成重新计票.
    - the character 前 (**ago**) included: 五年前(*five years ago*)
  - “在...期间” (during the period of ...)
- Modified time expressions
  - “充满希望的10年” (*full of hope 10 years*).
- Starting point includes verb?
  - “西门子(中国)有限公司总裁柯赫男日前在接受记者采访时 (*the time of being interviewed by correspondents*) 做上述表示。”
- Ranges, conjunctions, and elision “approximately 15 to 16 years old”, “7 days and nights”