

Abstract

Role research seems to be advancing in different directions with no instruments to properly communicate the relationship between new discoveries and existing role models. A Major impediment of role research is that there is no fundamental model from which to establish an understanding, communicate or spawn new ideas from.

This thesis provides a taxonomy for role semantic variability: A framework on which to build an understanding of a language, an approach to describing a role model and a tool for constructing or extending existing role models. The taxonomy is supported by an open implementation allowing expression and execution of role semantics. The implementation is compact and readily accessible.

The main contributions of the thesis are:

- An in depth overview of existing requirements for role semantics set forth by the role-literature. Existing overviews involve only few role semantics typically based on a small number of papers.
- A role taxonomy which expresses the variability points of role semantics and experimental validation of the taxonomy.
- A general framework implementation allowing easy experimentation with role semantics.