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Title

Generative Transformers versus dictionaries, with particular focus on English phrasal verbs

Abstract

The public appearance of ChatGPT in late 2022 caused quite a stir in many quarters, not least among lexicographers, even though the technology wasn't new at that point: it was just becoming widely available. Immediately, early work (including my own) looked into using Generative Transformers to assist in the laborious tasks of dictionary-making, with fair to middling results. In more recent work, language learners engage directly with chatbots, such as ChatGPT, in the role of language tool, traditionally played by dictionaries. An ongoing series of studies is investigating how ChatGPT compares with a monolingual learner's dictionary and a bilingual dictionary on tasks involving the production, comprehension, and learning of English phrasal verbs.