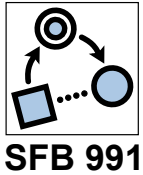


Transparency in multi-word expressions: An LTAG approach



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Overview

- Aims:**
- to model the *transparency* (modifiability, compositionality) of idiomatic MWE within the framework of Lexicalized Tree-Adjoining Grammar (LTAG)
- ⇒ three different strategies for three types of transparent MWE
- General questions:**
- How to implement transparency without provoking overgeneration?
 - To what degree does transparency imply morpho-synt. flexibility?
 - How to account for morpho-syntactic preferences/fixations?
 - How to integrate underlying conceptual/figurative mappings?

Framework: LTAG + frames

- Lexicalized Tree-Adjoining Grammar (LTAG)**
- lexicon: lexicalized *elementary trees*
 - combinatorial operations: *substitution* (replacement of leaf node) or *adjunction* (replacement of inner node)
 - extended domain of locality (EDL): elementary trees can be made large enough to span any MWE.
- Frame representations**
- base-labelled typed feature structures + unification (Kallmeyer & Osswald, 2013)

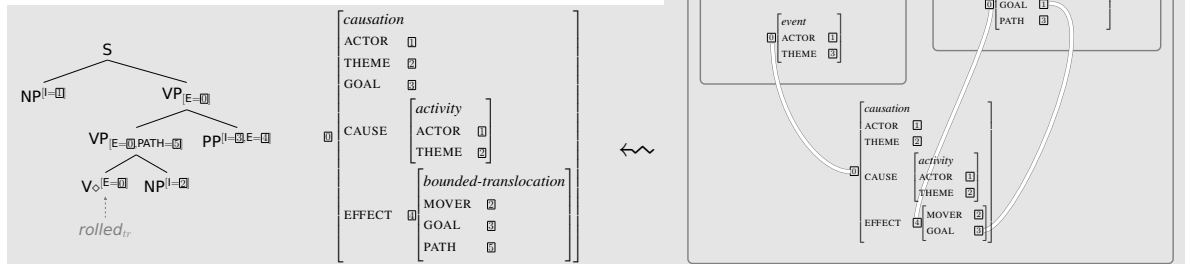
Argument structure constructions

Contrast between intransitive and transitive directed motion constructions:

(1) He rolled (the barrel) into the house.

Proposed analysis: constructional analysis of Kallmeyer & Osswald (2013); *rolled* may anchor different tree templates with different argument linking patterns; tree templates are further factorized in the metagrammar.

Open questions: Do we rather want to let the object NP immediately trigger the transitive reading? Can we implement a more general linking theory based on abstract roles such as ACTOR and UNDERGOER (Van Valin, 2005)?

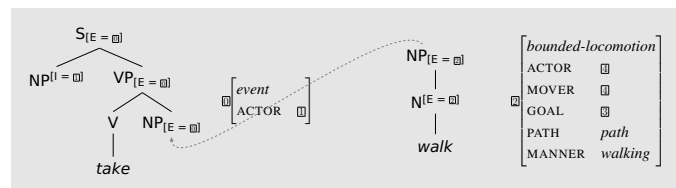


Light-verb constructions

Proposed analysis: syntax remains rather unchanged; semantics of the light verb and the event noun are unified at the root nodes (cf. Culicover & Jackendoff, 2005:225).

Transparency: morphology and syntax of the object NP are largely unconstrained (*take (three) walks; take the easiest walk*)

Open questions: not applicable to every event noun (*#take a kiss*) - How to constrain the event type in the light verb? One single entry for light verb *take*?



Compositional/non-compositional figurative MWE

Contrast in the semantic target of NP modifiers:

- (2) He kicked the proverbial / social / #rusty bucket.
 (3) He spilled the hot / juicy / political beans about the meeting.

Proposed analysis: different interface patterns.
Open question: What is the connection between the syntax and the figurative/conceptual dimension?

- (4) The strings [that Pat pulled] got John the job. (Sailer, 2000:(420-b))
 (5) Pat pulled some strings for Chris. But Alex didn't have access to any strings. (Manfred Sailer, p.c.)

