

# MWE games

PARSEME 7th General Meeting  
27 September 2016  
Dubrovnik, Croatia

# Guillotine

- game based on collocations,
- by Angelo & Federico,
- find a word that matches all words in a set,
- <http://mwe.herokuapp.com/>.

## Aligning MWEs with common senses

- Form 4 language groups: Balto-Slavic, Germanic, Romance, other,
- Assign MWEs to the set of senses.

## MWE alignment – results: Balto-Slavic group

### TO DIE, TO BE DEAD

- (EL) πάω στα θυμαράκια, *pao sta thimarakia*, 'to go to the little thyme bushes'
- (FR) *passer l'arme à gauche*, 'to put the weapon on the left side'
- (ES) *estar criando malvas*, 'to be growing mellows'

### TO BE TIRED

- (PT) *estar na capa da gaita*, 'to be in the accordion's case'
- (HU) *lóg a bele*, 'his intestines are hanging'
- (FA) *dahāné kasi kaf kardan* 'to foam ones mouth'

## MWE alignment – results: Balto-Slavic group

### TO BE STUPID

- (HU) *nincs ki a négy kereke*, 'he does not have all the four weels'
- (HE) *לא העפרון הכי מחודד בקלמר* *lo ha-iparon haki mexudad ba-kalmar*, 'not the sharpest pencil in the case'
- (DA) *har roterende fis i kasketten* 'has a rotating fart in his cap'

### TO BE ANGRY

- (EL) *βγαίνω από τα ρούχα μου*, *vjaino apo ta rucha mu*, 'take-off of the one's clothes'
- (MT) *qabžitlu ċ-ċinga*, 'his strap got out of its place'
- (PT) *estar de saco cheio*, 'to have one's bag full'

## MWE alignment – results: Romance group

### TO DIE, TO BE DEAD

- (MK) му се помочал глушецот во опинците, tr. *mu se pomochal glushecot vo opincite*, 'a mouse pissed in his sandals / moccasins'
- (EL) τίναξε τα πέταλα, *tinaxe ta petala*, 'shook horseshoes'
- (NO) *legge inn årene*, 'lay in the oars'

### TO BE STUPID

- (BL) чавка му е изпила мозъка, *chavka mu e izpila mozaka*, 'a jackdaw has drunk his brain'
- (FA) *dozārish kajé*, 'his coin is bent (as if it cannot pass through a pay phone)'
- (RU) *zdravstvuy derevo*, 'hello tree'

## MWE alignment – results: Romance group

### BE IN LOVE, TO FALL IN LOVE

- (PL) *poczuć do kogoś mięte*, 'to feel min(EL)t for someone'
- (DE) *Schmetterlinge im Bauch haben*, 'to have butterflies in one's stomach'
- (HU) *belécsap a villám*, 'the lightning hits him'

### TO DO SOMETHING USELESS

- (MK) *во водата прави дупка*, *vo vodata pravi dupka*, 'to make a hole in the water'
- (BL) *Пържа яйца на вятъра*, *parja jayca na vyatara*, 'to fry eggs on the wind'
- (HE) **צד זבובים** *cad zvuvim*, 'hunt flies'

## MWE alignment – results: Germanic group

### TO DO SOMETHING USELESS

- (FR) *pisser dans un violon*, 'to pee in a violin'
- (RO) *a căra apă la puț*, 'to carry water to the well'
- (RU) *толочь воду в ступе*, *toloch' vodu v stupe*, 'to grind water in a mortar'

### TO BE TIRED

- (LT) *nevar pār lūpu pārspļaut*, 'nevar pār lūpu paarspljaut', 'can't split over lip'
- (PL) *chodzić na rzęsach*, 'to walk on one's eyelashes'
- (MK) *не гледа бела мачка*, *ne gleda bela machka*, 'doesn't see a white cat'



## MWE alignment – results: Germanic group

### TO BE DRUNK

- (Swahili) *kuvaa miwani*, 'to wear spectacles'
- (BR PT) *estar para lá de bagdá*, 'to be beyond Bagdad'
- (LT) *akis užsipilti*, 'to get the eyes poured on'

### TO BE PARTICULAR

- (HU) *kákán is csomót keres*, 'he is searching for knots on reed'
- (EL) *δυσλίζω τον κώνωπα (και καταπίνω την κάμηλον)*, *diilizo ton konopa (ke katapino tin kamilon)*, 'to distill the mosquito (and swallow the camel)'
- (MT) *إِسْبِ الْخَمِّ فَلَگ*, *isib ix-xaghra fl-ghagina*, 'he finds the hair in the dough'

# MWE alignment – results: group of other languages

## TO BE ANGRY

- (RO) *a-i sări cuva muștarul*, 'his/her mustard jumps'
- (ES) *no está el horno para bollos*, 'the oven is not ready for cakes'
- (NO) *blåse i barten*, 'blow in the mustache'

## TO BE DRUNK

- (PL) *być na fali*, 'to be on a wave'
- (MK) *под гас*, *pod gas*, 'to be under gas'
- (ES) *ser un pozo sin fondo*, 'to be a well without an end'

## MWE alignment – results: group of other languages

### TO WORK HARD

- (PL) *gonić w piętke*, 'to run into the small heel'
- (DE) *sich die Beine ausreißen*, 'to tear out one's legs'
- (NO) *henge i stroppen*, 'hang in the strap'

### TO LAZY

- (ES) *tocarse el higo*, 'to touch one's fig'
- (NO) *ikke legge to pinner i kors*, 'not to lay two sticks in a cross'
- (SR) *лези лебу да те једем, lezi lebu da te jedem*, 'lay down bread to eat you'

# Positive stereotypes



(EL)

- (MT) *ghandu hin Ingliz*, 'to have an English timing'  $\Rightarrow$  'to be punctual'
- (HE) נשיקה צרפתית *neshika tsarfatit*, (CR) *Francuski poljubac* 'a French kiss'

# Neutral MWEs



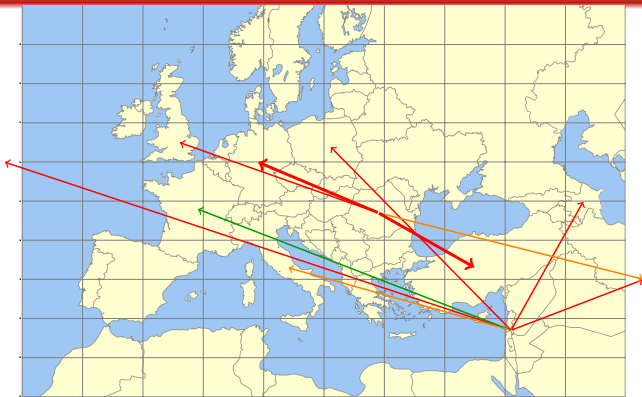
- (EL) γαλλικό κλειδί, *jaliko klidi*, 'French key' ⇒ 'adjustable wrench'
- (HE) ברומא התנהגו כרומאי *brwma htnhg krwmai* 'when in Rome do as Romans'

# Negative stereotypes



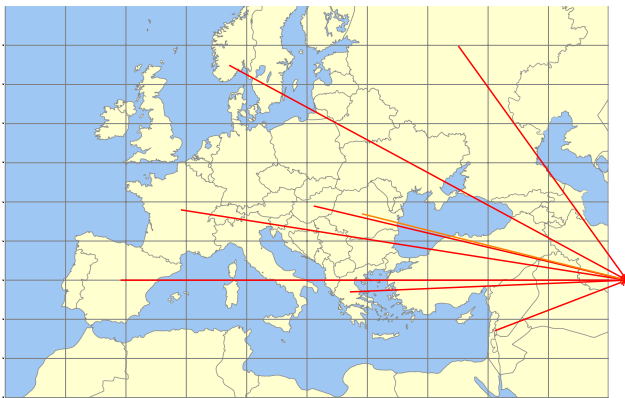
- (BR PT) *banho tcheco* 'Czech bath' ⇒ 'cleaning one's body with a wet towel'
- (EL) αρμένικη βίζιτα, *armeniki vizita*, 'Armenian visite' ⇒ 'a very long visit'

# Maximum fan-out



- (RO) *turcul plătește*, 'the Turk pays' ⇒ 'about having to take responsibility for something that one didn't do'
- (RO) *a fuma ca un turc*, 'to smoke like a Turk', ⇒ 'to smoke excessively'
- (HE) עבודה ערבית *avoda aravit*, 'Arabic work' ⇒ 'half-hearted job'
- (HE) אמא פולניק *ima polaniyh*, 'Polish mother' ⇒ 'Jewish mother'

# Maximum number of incoming edges - top 1

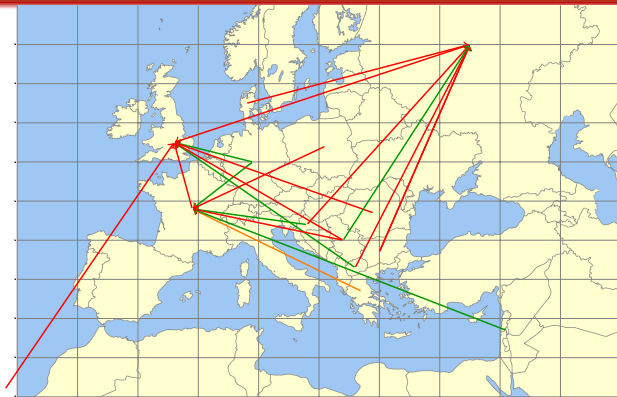


- (FR,HU,RU,ES) 'it's Chinese (grammar) to me', 'one speaks Chinese' ⇒ 'it's impossible to understand'



Maximum number of incoming edges -  $3 \times \text{top } 2$

## Maximum number of incoming edges - $3 \times \text{top } 2$



- (BR PO) *(só) pra inglês ver*, '(just) for English people to see'  $\Rightarrow$  '(just) for the sake of appearances'
- (PL) *francuski piesek*, 'a French doggy'  $\Rightarrow$  'someone capricious and difficult to please'
- (CR) *ima ih k'o Rusa*, 'as many as Russians'  $\Rightarrow$  'very many'

# Local maximum (CR, EL, RO, SR)

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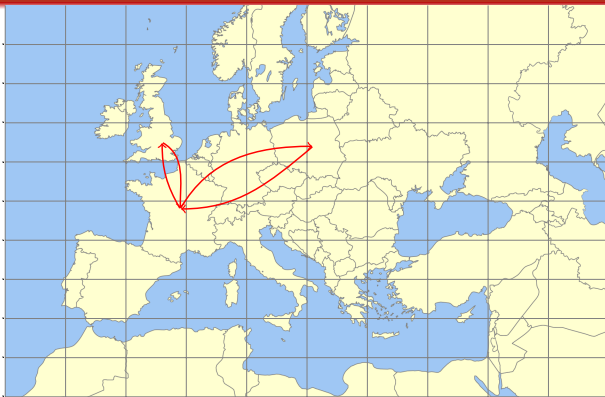
- (CR) *Puši k'o Turčin*, (RO) *a fuma ca un turc*, 'smoking like a Turk' ⇒ 'smoking excessively'
- (EL) *γίνομαι Τούρκος*, *jinome Turkos*, 'to become a Turk' ⇒ 'to become furious'
- (RO) *turcul plătește*, 'the Turk pays' ⇒ 'about having to take responsibility for something that one didn't do'
- (SR) *prolaziti kao pored turskog groblja*, 'go by as near the Turkish cemetery' ⇒ 'pass by without paying attention'

# Close neighbors



- (MK) бугарски чорапи, *bugarski chorapi*, 'bulgarian socks' ⇒ 'bearfoot'
- (MK) солунски диреци, *solunski direci*, 'Thessaloniki pillars' ⇒ 'fat (usually female) legs'
- (NO) *svenskemetoden*, 'the Swedish method' ⇒ 'using an easy solution'
- (PL) *czeski film*, 'Czech film' ⇒ 'a situation in which no one understands anything'
- (DE) *leben wie Gott in Frankreich*, 'live like God in France' ⇒ 'to live in luxury'
- (HU) *tótágast áll*, 'it stands as a Slovakian hanger' ⇒ 'it is upside down'

# Minimal non-empty cycles



- (FR) *filer à l'anglaise*, 'leave in the English style' ⇒ 'to leave without saying goodbye'
- (EN) *take a French leave* ⇒ 'to leave without saying goodbye'
- (FR) *saoûl comme un polonais*, 'as drunk as a Pole' ⇒ 'very drunk'
- (PL) *francuski piesek*, 'a French doggy' ⇒ 'someone capricious and difficult to please'

## Linguistic analysis: sarcasm via antonyms



- (SR) *naivna/neiskusan k'o francuska sobarica* 'naive/unexperienced as a French maid' ⇒ 'not naive, very experienced'
- (RO) *cald nemțesc* 'German warm' ⇒ cold
- (RO) *a merge drept ca neamțul*, 'to walk straight as a German' ⇒ 'to stagger like a drunk man'

## Same meaning, different nationalities



### TO PRETEND NOT TO UNDERSTAND

- (EL) κάνω τον Κινέζο, *kano ton Kinezo*, 'to make the Chinese'
- (PL) *udać Greka*, 'to pretend being a Greek'
- (ES) *hacerse el sueco*, 'to act like a Swedish'
- (SR) *praviti se Englez*, 'to pretend being an Englishman'



## Same meaning, different nationalities

TO DRINK LIKE A . . .

- (FR) '...

## Same meaning, different nationalities

### TO DRINK LIKE A ...

- (FR) '... Pole' *saoûl comme un polonais*
- (CS) '...'

## Same meaning, different nationalities

### TO DRINK LIKE A ...

- (FR) '... Pole' *saoûl comme un polonais*
- (CS) '... Danish' *pít jako Dán*
- (MK, BL) '...

## Same meaning, different nationalities

### TO DRINK LIKE A ...

- (FR) '... Pole' *saoûl comme un polonais*
- (CS) '... Danish' *pít jako Dán*
- (MK, BL) '... Russian', *пие како Рус, pie kako Rus*
- (BL) ...

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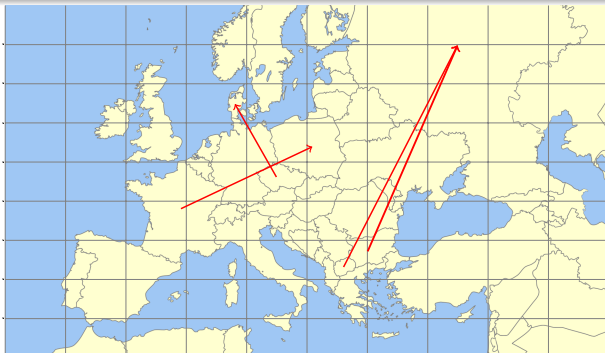
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- (BL) '... Cossack' *пия като казак, , piya kato kazak,*

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# Non-COST stereotypes



TO DRINK LIKE A . . .

- (Swahili) *Mzungu wa reli*, 'the railway white person' ⇒

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TO DRINK LIKE A . . .

- (Swahili) *Mzungu wa reli*, 'the railway white person' ⇒ 'ignorant'
- (Swahili) *Mzungu wa unga*, 'white man of flour' ⇒



# Non-COST stereotypes



## TO DRINK LIKE A . . .

- (Swahili) *Mzungu wa reli*, 'the railway white person' ⇒ 'ignorant'
- (Swahili) *Mzungu wa unga*, 'white man of flour' ⇒ 'drug dealer'
- (FA) *tārof Shirāzi*, 'Shirazi Invitation' ⇒ 'inviting someone and hoping that (s)he will not show up'
- (FA) *zirá bé Kerman bordan*, 'to take caraway to Kerman' ⇒ 'to do something useless (caraway is a typical souvenir of Kerman)'

# Neologism - a quizz

TO HAVE A LOT OF DEBTS

- (SR) 'as indebted as ...

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TO HAVE A LOT OF DEBTS

- (SR) 'as indebted as ... Greece' *dužan kao Grčka*



# Conclusion

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