

New LFG Grammatical Function (GF) for (free subject) verb MWEs

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Independent vs dependent Fixed Strings (FSs)

The fixed string (FS) in (1) can be used independently of the particular MWE because

(i) it combines with a variety of verbs ('δίνω' (give), 'ανάβω' (turn on), 'παίρνω' (take))

(ii) It is used in titles frequently (1a).

It can be the anaphoric target of a personal pronoun (1).

(1) έδωσε το πράσινο φως για το Erasmus+
give.3rd.sg the green.neu.acc.sg light.neu.acc.sg for Erasmus+
το έδωσε
it.acc.sg give

'S/He gave the green light for Erasmus+.'

(1a) Πράσινο φως για το Erasmus+ από το Ευρωπαϊκό ...
'Green light for Erasmus+ from the European...'

On the other hand, the FS in (2) has no such independence and can not be the target of a personal pronoun.

(2) FS [τη_σκόνη] plus NP[+gen]

έφαγαν τη σκόνη του Διαμαντίδη
eat.3rd.sg the.fem.acc.sg dust.fem.acc.sg the Diamantidis
*την έφαγαν
she.fem.acc.sg eat.3rd.pl

"Diamantidis overtook them."

Still, FSs with no independent meaning ('non-independent FSs') have some kind of semantics because:

-they signify the respective MWEs

-in MG, they play a role in emphatic structures (3)

(3) Τη σκόνη του Διαμαντίδη έφαγαν οι αφοί Γκασόλ
'Bros Gasol were OVERTAKEN by Diamantidis.'

The fronted FS "τη_σκόνη" results in the emphatic interpretation (3); if the free NP "του Διαμαντίδη" was fronted the interpretation would be "DIAMANTIDIS overtook the Gasol Bros".

MG and English data shows that constituents containing a dependent FS allow for emphasis (3), binding of an anaphor (4), (5), obligatory free NPs[+gen/+acc] which they seem to select (6).

(4) FS [eyeteeth] plus Possessive pronoun

She would give [her **eyeteeth**] for this job.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/eyeteeth>

(4a) *She would give it for this job.

(5) FS [στ'_αυγά] plus weak pronoun[+gen]

πες στην Ελένη να κάτσει [στ' αυγά της]
tell.imp to-the Eleni.fem.3rd.sg to sit.fem.3rd.sg [on-the eggs hers.fem.3rd.sg]
'Tell to Eleni not to be involved.'

(6) FS [leg] plus NP's

The students decided to pull [the teacher's **leg**] by telling...

<http://www.idiomeanings.com/idioms/pull-ones-leg/>.

(6a) *I pulled it too.

Therefore, we assume that dependent FSs have own semantics and, a PRED value is defined in their lexical entries within an LFG-oriented approach.

Why a new LFG Grammatical Function (GF) for MWEs

Why the same syntactic function for (2)-(6)—therefore one grammatical function:

(i) phrasal structures headed by non-independent FSs

(ii) own semantic contribution

(iii) directly dependent on the verb--(5) contains a preposition ("σε" (to)) but the preposition is part of the FS, it is not predicative and there is no independent predicative preposition introducing the FS

(iv) emphasis, binding, obligatory NP[+gen] that could be considered selected

(v) FSs can not be the target of personal pronouns.

Why not an OBJECT (where the FS does not contain a P):

(i) very often it is not clear to which Part of Speech an FS belongs; it seems that one needs to postulate a "new" Part of Speech, let us call it 'FS' that gives projections of the type FSP. Such projections will be typical of the new GF as NPs are typical of the SUBJ and OBJ GFs in both English and MG

(ii) objects can be the targets of personal pronouns

Why not an OBL (where a P exists in the FS): "κάθομαι" (sit) (5) subcategorises for a prepositional complement, an OBL in LFG terms. However, the structure "στ' αυγά της" does not seem to contain an active P predicate since no substitution of the PP with an adverb or substitution of the supposed NP complement of the P apply.

We define a new grammatical function **FIXCONST** with value received from the projection of a phrasal constituent that is headed by a non-independent FS. In this way, rules that apply on objects such as substitution of an object XP by a personal pronoun will not apply on constituents headed by FSs.

References

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