

Lexical Mapping Theory and the anatomy of a (verbal) lexical entry

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Outline

- 1 Motivations and goals
- 2 The anatomy of a lexical entry
 - Core meaning
 - Valency frame(s)
 - Mapping principles
 - Argument alternant(s)
- 3 Conclusions

Motivations and goals

LMT

- **(Lexical) Mapping Theory (LMT):** a theory of the linking between semantic arguments and grammatical functions.
(e.g. Bresnan & Kanerva 1989; Kibort 2007)
 - ▶ Some recent work has been skeptical of the need for an independent level of a-structure over which LMT is to operate.
(Asudeh & Giorgolo 2012; Asudeh et al. 2014; Findlay 2016)

Motivations

- A continuation of the research programme started by Asudeh & Giorgolo (2012).
 - ▶ A desire for ontological parsimony: no need for a-structure.
 - ▶ An uneasiness with the formal underpinnings of LMT.
 - ▶ A drive to modularity in the lexicon, using templates.

Tools of the trade

- LMT introduces a number of new formal tools into the LFG architecture, the consequences of which are sometimes not made clear, or are dismissed:

- ▶ Feature decomposition:

	$-r$	$+r$
$-o$	SUBJ	OBL _{θ}
$+o$	OBJ	OBJ _{θ}

- ★ GFs are no longer theoretical primitives (Butt 1995: 31).
- ★ What is the status of these features? (See brief discussion in Findlay 2016: 298–299.)
- ▶ ‘Pre-lexical derivation sequences’:
 - ★ Where does mapping fit into the LFG parsing algorithm?
 - ★ By what mechanisms does it operate?

Tools of the trade

- Sometimes formal extensions are necessary, but . . .
 - ▶ All things being equal, we prefer sparser theories.
 - ▶ If we do add extra tools, their formal/mathematical properties must be clear.

Goal 1

Show that the insights of LMT can be expressed using existing LFG machinery.

A modular lexicon

- One strand of research in LFG has also advocated a highly modular view of the lexicon: (e.g. Asudeh & Giorgolo 2012; Asudeh et al. 2013; Przepiórkowski 2017)
 - ▶ Lexical entries consist of an idiosyncratic core, containing e.g. lexical meaning, supplemented *monotonically* by additional information.
 - ▶ This information is represented in **templates** (Dalrymple et al. 2004) which capture cross-lexical commonalities.
(Cf. Przepiórkowski 2017 for a well-developed version of this view.)
- One major advantage of this view is that it enables us to represent information at a higher level of abstraction, packaging up the underlying implementation and leaving only the theoretically interesting facts.

Goal 2

- (a) Break down a lexical entry into identifiable parts.
- (b) Factor out the contents of these parts so that they can be described using high-level templates.

The anatomy of a lexical entry

Components of a (verbal) lexical entry

- (1) form, category;
functional description:
- core meaning
 - valency frame(s)
 - argument alternation(s)
 - other material

Core meaning

Core meaning

- (2) gave, V;
 (\uparrow PRED) = 'give'
 (\uparrow_σ REL) = give

$\lambda x \lambda y \lambda z \lambda e. \mathbf{give}(e) \wedge \mathbf{agent}(e, x) \wedge \mathbf{theme}(e, y) \wedge \mathbf{beneficiary}(e, z) :$
 (\uparrow_σ ARG1) \multimap (\uparrow_σ ARG2) \multimap (\uparrow_σ ARG3) \multimap (\uparrow_σ EVENT) \multimap \uparrow_σ

(\uparrow_σ ARG1)

(\uparrow_σ ARG2)

(\uparrow_σ ARG3)

Ensuring arguments are mapped

- The existential constraints mentioning the various ARGs require that *some* information about them is specified elsewhere.
- Assuming that nothing does so directly, this will ensure they must be mapped to a GF that can provide some information.
 - (3) Kim yawns.
 - (4) Kim, N;
 $(\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{REL}) = \text{Kim}$
 - (5) $(\uparrow \text{SUBJ})_{\sigma} = (\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{ARG1})$
- Argument-suppressing operations will provide a dummy REL value, 'var' (for 'variable').

Valency frame(s)

Valency frames

- A verb is associated with one or more valency frames, which represent its arguments and their potential syntactic realisation.
- Such frames are equivalent to Kibort's (2001; 2007; 2008) a-structures.

$$(6) \quad \left\langle \begin{array}{cccccc} \text{arg}_1 & \text{arg}_2 & \text{arg}_3 & \text{arg}_4 & \dots & \text{arg}_n \\ [-o]/[-r] & [-r] & [+o] & [-o] & & [-o] \end{array} \right\rangle$$

$$(7) \quad \text{SUBJ} > \text{OBJ}, \text{OBL}_\theta > \text{OBJ}_\theta$$

- What Kibort's valency frame + Mapping Principle really give us is a *default* mapping for each arg position, plus a possible alternative.
- But this is provided via *sui generis* a-structure and a separate mapping algorithm.
- We can achieve the same result using standard LFG functional descriptions.

Some basic templates

- (8) a. $\text{MAP}(X, Y) :=$
 $(\uparrow X)_\sigma = (\uparrow_\sigma Y)$
- b. $\text{@MAP}(\text{SUBJ}, \text{ARG1}) \equiv$
 $(\uparrow \text{SUBJ})_\sigma = (\uparrow_\sigma \text{ARG1})$
- (9) $\text{NOMAP}(Y) :=$
 $(\uparrow_\sigma Y)_{\sigma^{-1}} = \emptyset$
- (10) a. $\text{MINUSO} \equiv \{\text{SUBJ}|\text{OBL}_\theta\}$
- b. $\text{PLUSO} \equiv \{\text{OBJ}|\text{OBJ}_\theta\}$
- c. $\text{MINUSR} \equiv \{\text{SUBJ}|\text{OBJ}\}$
- d. $\text{PLUSR} \equiv \{\text{OBJ}_\theta|\text{OBL}_\theta\}$

Recasting Kibort's valency positions

(11) $\text{DEFAULT-SUBJECT-UNERG}(arg) :=$
 $\{ @MAP(\text{SUBJ}, arg) \mid \neg @MAP(\text{SUBJ}, arg) \wedge \neg @MAP(\text{PLUSO}, arg) \}$
 $\%arg1 = arg$

- One positive specification, one set of negative specifications.
 - ▶ With no further information, the first disjunct must be true, since the existential equations in the core require *some* positive specification of the mapping between GFs and ARGs.
- Local name assigned to the argument, intended to be mnemonic for the arg positions in Kibort's theory.
 - ▶ This ensures that further mapping rules apply to the correct argument, without needing to imbue s-structure labels with meaning.

- (12) a. $\text{DEFAULT-SUBJECT-UNACC}(arg) :=$
 $\{ @MAP(\text{SUBJ}, arg) \mid \neg @MAP(\text{SUBJ}, arg) \wedge \neg @MAP(\text{PLUSR}, arg) \}$
 $\%arg1 = arg$
- b. $\text{DEFAULT-OBJECT}(arg) :=$
 $\{ @MAP(\text{OBJ}, arg) \mid \neg @MAP(\text{OBJ}, arg) \wedge \neg @MAP(\text{PLUSR}, arg) \}$
 $@\text{MAPPING-PRINCIPLE-ARG2}$
 $\%arg2 = arg$
- c. $\text{DEFAULT-OBJTH}(arg) :=$
 $\{ @MAP(\text{OBJ}_\theta, arg) \mid \neg @MAP(\text{OBJ}_\theta, arg) \wedge \neg @MAP(\text{MINUSO}, arg) \}$
 $@\text{MAPPING-PRINCIPLE-ARG3}$
 $\%arg3 = arg$
- d. $\text{DEFAULT-OBL}(arg) :=$
 $\{ @MAP(\text{OBL}_\theta, arg) \mid \neg @MAP(\text{OBL}_\theta, arg) \wedge \neg @MAP(\text{PLUSO}, arg) \}$
 $@\text{MAPPING-PRINCIPLE-ARG4}$
 $\%arg4 = arg$

Love

- Meaning:

$$(13) \quad \lambda x \lambda y \lambda e. \mathbf{love}(e) \wedge \mathbf{agent}(e) = x \wedge \mathbf{theme}(e) = y : \\ (\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{ ARG1}) \multimap (\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{ ARG2}) \multimap (\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{ EVENT}) \multimap \uparrow_{\sigma}$$

- A-structure:

$$(14) \quad \begin{array}{cc} \text{ARG1} & \text{ARG2} \\ \text{(agent)} & \text{(theme)} \\ \langle \text{arg}_1 & \text{arg}_2 \rangle \\ [-o] & [-r] \end{array}$$

- Templatic valency frame:

$$(15) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{a. } \text{CANONICAL-TRANSITIVE}(X, Y) := \\ \quad \text{@DEFAULT-SUBJECT-UNERG}(X) \\ \quad \text{@DEFAULT-OBJECT}(Y) \\ \text{b. } \text{@CANONICAL-TRANSITIVE}(\text{ARG1}, \text{ARG2}) \end{array}$$

Give

- A verb like *give* has two different valency frames:

(16) a. Non-dative-shifted: *Odo gave a gift to Kira.*

b. Dative-shifted: *Odo gave Kira a gift.*

(17) a.

	ARG1 (agent)	ARG2 (theme)	ARG3 (beneficiary)	
⟨	arg ₁	arg ₂	arg ₄	⟩
	[-o]	[-r]	[-o]	

b.

	ARG1 (agent)	ARG3 (beneficiary)	ARG2 (theme)	
⟨	arg ₁	arg ₂	arg ₃	⟩
	[-o]	[-r]	[+o]	

Give

Odo gave a gift to Kira.

ARG1 (agent)	ARG2 (theme)	ARG3 (beneficiary)
< arg ₁	arg ₂	arg ₄ >
[-o]	[-r]	[-o]

Odo gave Kira a gift.

ARG1 (agent)	ARG3 (beneficiary)	ARG2 (theme)
< arg ₁	arg ₂	arg ₃ >
[-o]	[-r]	[+o]

(18) @DEFAULT-SUBJECT-UNERG(ARG1)

(19) a. OBL-BEN(X, Y) :=
@DEFAULT-OBJECT(X)
@DEFAULT-OBL(Y)

b. @OBL-BEN(ARG2, ARG3)

(20) a. OBJ-BEN(X, Y) :=
@DEFAULT-OBJTH(X)
@DEFAULT-OBJECT(Y)

b. @OBJ-BEN(ARG2, ARG3)

Give

- The two possibilities can be captured in a higher-level template:

(21) EN-DITRANSITIVE(X, Y, Z) :=
@DEFAULT-SUBJ-UNERG(X)
{@OBL-BEN(Y, Z) | @OBJ-BEN(Y, Z)}

Mapping principles

Mapping principles

- The mechanism by which GFs and ARGs are aligned, called the Mapping Principle by Kibort, is a little mysterious formally speaking.
 - ▶ Often some loose appeal to OT or a similar process (e.g. Butt et al. 1997, Findlay 2016: 322), or once again to a *sui generis* mechanism.
- But its effects can be captured using standard LFG functional descriptions – this is what the various MAPPING-PRINCIPLE templates do.
- Each position below arg_1 in Kibort's theory is essentially in competition with some higher arg position:
 - ▶ arg_2 wants to be a SUBJ, but is generally blocked from doing so by arg_1
 - ▶ arg_3 wants to be an OBJ, but is generally blocked from doing so by arg_2
 - ▶ arg_4 wants to be a SUBJ, but is generally blocked from doing so by arg_1

Mapping principles

- We can capture this in a disjunction:

$$(22) \quad \text{MAPPING-PRINCIPLE-ARG2} := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (\uparrow \text{SUBJ})_{\sigma} = (\uparrow_{\sigma} \%arg2) \\ \vee \\ (\uparrow \text{SUBJ}) \\ (\uparrow \text{SUBJ})_{\sigma} \neq (\uparrow_{\sigma} \%arg2) \\ \vee \\ @\text{NOMAP}(\%arg2) \end{array} \right\}$$

- If SUBJ maps to %arg1, the first disjunct here cannot be true, since it would make σ non-functional.
- The second disjunct provides another negative constraint on %arg2, which forces the default OBJ mapping, all other things being equal.
 - The existential constraint in this disjunct ensures that the default mapping only applies when something else fills %arg2's preferred GF. If nothing else realises SUBJ, then %arg2 will.

Mapping principles

$$(23) \quad \text{MAPPING-PRINCIPLE-ARG3} := \left\{ \begin{array}{c} (\uparrow \text{OBJ})_{\sigma} = (\uparrow_{\sigma} \%arg3) \\ \vee \\ (\uparrow \text{OBJ}) \\ (\uparrow \text{OBJ})_{\sigma} \neq (\uparrow_{\sigma} \%arg3) \\ \vee \\ @\text{NOMAP}(\%arg3) \end{array} \right\}$$

$$(24) \quad \text{MAPPING-PRINCIPLE-ARG4} := \left\{ \begin{array}{c} (\uparrow \text{SUBJ})_{\sigma} = (\uparrow_{\sigma} \%arg4) \\ \vee \\ (\uparrow \text{SUBJ}) \\ (\uparrow \text{SUBJ})_{\sigma} \neq (\uparrow_{\sigma} \%arg4) \\ \vee \\ @\text{NOMAP}(\%arg4) \end{array} \right\}$$

Argument alternant(s)

Argument alternations

- With the valency frames in place, we can model argument alternations in the same way as in Kibort's LMT, as the further specification of a particular argument's GF.

(As cashed out in e.g. Asudeh et al. 2014 and Findlay 2016.)

(25) Chicheŵa locative inversion (Bresnan & Kanerva 1989: 2):

- Chi-tsîme chi-li ku-mu-dzi. (SUBJ, OBL_{LOC})
7-well 7SUBJ-be 17-3-village
 'The well is in the village.'
- Ku-mu-dzi ku-li chi-tsîme. (SUBJ, OBJ)
17-3-village 17SUBJ-be 7-well
 'In the village is a well.'

Argument alternations

(26) LOCATIVE-INVERSION :=

$@MAP(PLUSO, \%arg1)$

(after Kibort 2007)

(27) DEFAULT-SUBJECT-UNACC(*arg*) :=

$\{ @MAP(SUBJ, arg) \mid \neg @MAP(SUBJ, arg) \wedge \neg @MAP(PLUSR, arg) \}$

$\%arg1 = arg$

(28) MAPPING-PRINCIPLE-ARG4 :=

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} (\uparrow \text{SUBJ})_{\sigma} = (\uparrow_{\sigma} \%arg4) \\ \vee \\ (\uparrow \text{SUBJ}) \\ (\uparrow \text{SUBJ})_{\sigma} \neq (\uparrow_{\sigma} \%arg4) \\ \vee \\ @NOMAP(\%arg4) \end{array} \right\}$$

Argument suppression

- Argument suppressing alternations are different, since we also need to do something about the argument which isn't overtly realised.

(29) SUPPRESS(*arg*, *template*) :=
@NOMAP(*arg*)
@*template*(*arg*)
(\uparrow_{σ} *arg* REL) = var

CLOSE-OFF

- (30) CLOSE-OFF(*arg*) :=
 $\lambda P. \exists x[P(x)] : [(\uparrow_{\sigma} \textit{arg}) \multimap \uparrow_{\sigma}] \multimap \uparrow_{\sigma}$
- (31) a. Jadzia was killed.
 b. $\exists e \exists x[\textit{kill}(e) \wedge \textit{agent}(e) = x \wedge \textit{patient}(e) = \textit{jadzia}]$
- (32) PASSIVE :=
 (\uparrow VOICE) = PASSIVE
 { @SHORT-PASSIVE | @LONG-PASSIVE }
- (33) a. SHORT-PASSIVE :=
 @SUPPRESS(%arg1, CLOSE-OFF)
 b. LONG-PASSIVE :=
 @MAP(PLUSR, %arg1)
- (34) ACTIVE :=
 (\uparrow VOICE) = ACTIVE

CLOSE-OFF

- (35) French middle voice (Grimshaw 1982)
- a. La librairie vend beaucoup de livres.
the bookshop sells many books
 ‘The bookshop sells many books.’
- b. Beaucoup de livres se vendent dans cette ville.
many books SE sell in this town
 ‘Many books are sold in this town.’
- (36) se, CL;
 (↑ REFL) = +
 (↑ SUBJ PERS) = 3
- (37) FR-MIDDLE :=
 @SUPPRESS(%arg1, CLOSE-OFF)
 (↑ REFL) =_c +

BIND

(Grimshaw 1982)

- (38) Jean se voit.
John SE sees
 'John sees himself.'
- (39) a. Un train passe toutes les heures.
a train passes all the hours
 'A train goes by every hour.'
- b. Il passe un train toutes les heures.
- (40) a. Un train conduira les voyageurs à Paris.
a train will take the passengers to Paris
 'A train will take the travellers to Paris.'
- b. *Il conduira un train les voyageurs à Paris.
- c. *Il conduira les voyageurs un train à Paris.

BIND

- (41) a. Une femme s' est offerte pour mener le combat.
a woman SE AUX offered to lead the combat
 'A woman offered herself to lead the fighting.'
- b. Il s'est offert une femme pour mener le combat.

(42) $\text{BIND}(arg_\beta, arg_\alpha) :=$
 $\lambda P \lambda x. P(x)(x) : [(\uparrow_\sigma arg_\alpha) \multimap (\uparrow_\sigma arg_\beta) \multimap \uparrow_\sigma] \multimap (\uparrow_\sigma arg_\beta) \multimap \uparrow_\sigma$

(43) $\text{FR-REFLEXIVE} :=$
 $@\text{SUPPRESS}(\%arg2, \text{BIND}(\%arg1))$
 $(\uparrow \text{REFL}) =_c +$

Conclusions

A lexical entry

- (44) given, V;
 (\uparrow PRED) = 'give'
 (\uparrow_σ REL) = give
- $\lambda x \lambda y \lambda z \lambda e. \mathbf{give}(e) \wedge \mathbf{agent}(e, x) \wedge \mathbf{theme}(e, y) \wedge \mathbf{beneficiary}(e, z) :$
 (\uparrow_σ ARG1) \multimap (\uparrow_σ ARG2) \multimap (\uparrow_σ ARG3) \multimap (\uparrow_σ EVENT) \multimap \uparrow_σ
- (\uparrow_σ ARG1)
 (\uparrow_σ ARG2)
 (\uparrow_σ ARG3)
- @EN-DITRANSITIVE (ARG1, ARG2, ARG3)
- @PASSIVE

Conclusions

Goal 1

Show that the insights of LMT can be expressed using existing LFG machinery.

- The default GF and MAPPING-PRINCIPLE templates make this possible.
- The default templates assign a local name to the s-structure arguments, allowing us to straightforwardly simulate anything Kibort's LMT can say about monotonic manipulations of argument mappings.

Conclusions

Goal 2

- (a) Break down a lexical entry into identifiable parts.
- (b) Factor out the contents of these parts so that they can be described using high-level templates.

- A lexical entry contains at least
 - ▶ a core meaning, and
 - ▶ a valency frame (its 'argument structure'),
- It may also contain
 - ▶ information about argument alternations
 - ▶ further lexically idiosyncratic information
- Information about tense, aspect, mood, etc. will also need to be integrated.

Conclusions

- By using templates, we conceal the underlying mathematical gore, but leave the theoretically interesting generalisations available for discussion and use.
- These proposals also offer a firmer formal foundation for insights gained by work couched in LMT, hopefully further promoting the profitable cross-fertilisation between Glue practitioners and those working on mapping theory which has flourished in the past 8+ years.

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Simplifying the core

- We can further simplify the lexical representation of the core by factoring out shared aspects of the meaning.

(Cf. e.g. Asudeh & Giorgolo 2012; Findlay 2016; Przepiórkowski 2017.)

- In this case, we can move them to a valency frame.

(45) EN-DITRANSITIVE (X, Y, Z) :=

$$\{ @OBL-BEN(X, Y, Z) \mid @OBJ-BEN(X, Y, Z) \}$$

$$\lambda P \lambda x \lambda y \lambda z \lambda e. P(e) \wedge \mathbf{agent}(e, x) \wedge \mathbf{theme}(e, y) \wedge \mathbf{beneficiary}(e, z) :$$

$$[(\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{EVENT}) \multimap \uparrow_{\sigma}] \multimap$$

$$(\uparrow_{\sigma} X) \multimap (\uparrow_{\sigma} Y) \multimap (\uparrow_{\sigma} Z) \multimap (\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{EVENT}) \multimap \uparrow_{\sigma}$$

$$(\uparrow_{\sigma} X)$$

$$(\uparrow_{\sigma} Y)$$

$$(\uparrow_{\sigma} Z)$$

Simplifying the core

- Assuming that REL and PRED will always have the same value (*modulo* concerns about unique instantiation), we can also introduce a template LEXEME:

$$(46) \quad \begin{aligned} \text{LEXEME}(X) &:= \\ (\uparrow \text{PRED}) &= 'X' \\ (\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{REL}) &= X \end{aligned}$$

A lexical entry

- (47) given, V;
@LEXEME(give)
 $\lambda e.\mathbf{give}(e) : (\uparrow_\sigma \text{ EVENT}) \multimap \uparrow_\sigma$
@EN-DITRANSITIVE (ARG1, ARG2, ARG3)
@PASSIVE

A note on EVENT

- In many approaches to event semantics in Glue, an s-structure attribute EVENT is assumed, but no positive defining equation for it is supplied.
- Doesn't this cause a problem for a meaning constructor like (48)?

$$(48) \quad \lambda x \lambda y \lambda e. \mathbf{love}(e) \wedge \mathbf{agent}(e) = x \wedge \mathbf{theme}(e) = y : \\ (\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{ ARG1}) \multimap (\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{ ARG2}) \multimap (\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{ EVENT}) \multimap \uparrow_{\sigma}$$

- In fact, no: the resource $(\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{ EVENT})$ is never *directly* consumed. For example, once the verb has combined with its arguments, a meaning constructor like (49) will come along and consume the remaining dependency on $(\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{ EVENT})$:

$$(49) \quad \lambda P. \exists e [P(e) \wedge \mathbf{past}(e)] : [(\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{ EVENT}) \multimap \uparrow_{\sigma}] \multimap \uparrow_{\sigma}$$

- The whole conditional statement is consumed, not $(\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{ EVENT})$ alone.
- An expression like $(\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{ EVENT}) \multimap \uparrow_{\sigma}$ says 'If you had a resource $(\uparrow_{\sigma} \text{ EVENT})$, then you could produce a resource \uparrow_{σ} ', but such a condition is never met, and so the resource remains purely hypothetical.
- The actual error in previous Glue work was including EVENT in the semantic structures. Such an attribute doesn't exist, and doesn't need to – it is a hypothetical resource.