

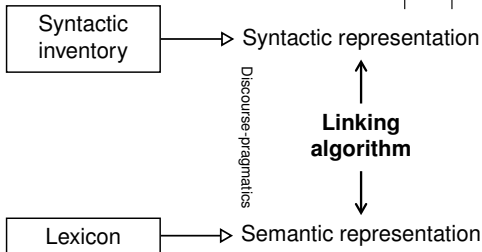
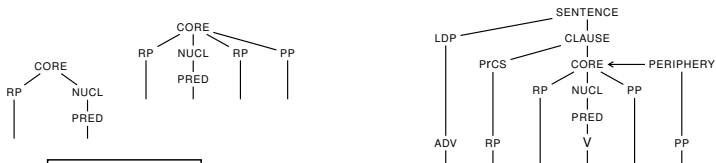
Format and role of constructional schemas in RRG

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TreeGraSP Meeting #3
Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf

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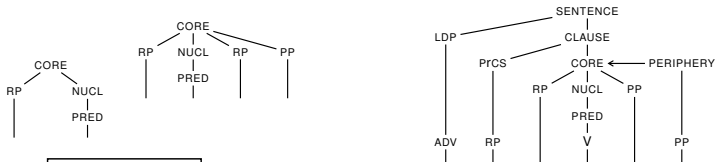
The architecture of RRG (recap)



[**do'**(x, \emptyset)] CAUSE [INGR **shattered'**(y)]

\langle IF INT \langle TNS PRES \langle ASP PERF PROG \langle **do'**(Kim, [**cry'**(Kim)]))\mathbf{\rangle}\mathbf{\rangle}

The architecture of RRG (recap)



Syntactic inventory

Syntactic representation

Discourse-pragmatics

Linking algorithm

Constructional schemas

Lexicon

Semantic representation

[**do'**(*x*, ∅)] CAUSE [INGR **shattered'**(*y*)]

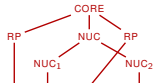
⟨IF INT ⟨TNS PRES ⟨ASP PERF PROG ⟨do'(Kim, [cry'(Kim)]))⟩⟩⟩⟩

MORPHOLOGY —

SYNTAX Juncture: nuclear

Nexus: cosubordination

Construction type: serial verb



Linking: default

SEMANTICS [(SEM_{NUC1})] CAUSE [(SEM_{NUC2})]

PRAGMATICS unspecified

Constructional schemas vs. general principles

Van Valin (2005:131/2):

- RRG recognizes the importance of **grammatical constructions**, and they are represented in terms of **constructional schemas**.
- Cross-constructional and cross-linguistic **generalizations** are captured in terms of the **general principles** and **constraints** that constitute the **linking algorithms**, e.g. the actor–undergoer hierarchy, the layered structure of the clause, the privileged syntactic argument selection hierarchy.
- Only the **idiosyncratic, language-specific features** of constructions are represented in constructional schemas.
- Hence constructional schemas, by virtue of their reference to general principles, permit the capturing of cross-linguistic generalizations, while at the same time expressing language-particular properties of grammars.

Constructional schemas ↗ **Construction Grammar !!**

Constructional schemas vs. general principles

Constructional schemas in Van Valin/LaPolla 1997 & Van Valin 2005

English

passive voice formation

wh-question formation

reflexivization

'conjunction reduction'

Kim worked on the assignment in the morning **and** will finish it in the afternoon

'VP' ellipsis

Kim is eating an ice cream cone, **and** Sandy is, too.

control construction

Robin **promised** Sandy **to wash** the dishes.

matrix-coding (= raising) construction

resultative construction

Vince has **wiped** the table **clean**.

relative clause constructions (with/without relative pronoun)

Trevor talked to the woman (**that**) Colin introduced him to.

I liked the cars **which** were destroyed yesterday.

Constructional schemas vs. general principles

Constructional schemas in Van Valin/LaPolla 1997 & Van Valin 2005

Sama antipassive voice formation / wh-question formation / reflexivization

Say N-nda' d'nda?
 who ANTI-see woman
 'Who saw a woman?' (*'Who did the woman see?')

Malagasy relative clause construction

Lakhota relative clause construction (internally headed)

Wičháša ki [[šúnka waŋ igmú ki Ø-Ø-yahtáke] ki le] waŋ(Ø-Ø)yánke yelo.
 man the dog a cat the 3sgU-3sgA-bite the this <3sgU-3sgA>see DEC
 'The man saw the dog which bit the cat.'

Bambara relative clause construction (internally headed)

French nuclear juncture causative construction

Je **ferai manger** les gâteaux à Jean.

Mandarin Chinese resultative serial verb construction

Tā **qiāo pò** le yí ge fànwǎn.
 3sg hit break PRFV one CL bowl
 'She broke (by hitting) a ricebowl.'

Barai nuclear serial verb construction (coordination/cosubordination)

Constructional schemas vs. general principles

Example Constructional schema for **English passive voice** formation

Syntax:

Template(s): → Syntactic template selection principle (voice construction)

PSA: → Accessibility to PSA principles; variable [\pm pragmatic influence]

Linking: → General characterization of basic voice constructions;

Non-canonical realization of a macrorole argument: omitted or in peripheral *by*-PP

Morphology:

Verb: past participle; Auxiliary: *be*

Semantics:

PSA is not instigator of state of affairs but is affected by it (default)

Pragmatics:

Illocutionary force: unspecified

Focus structure: no restrictions; PSA = topic (default)

Constructional schemas vs. general principles

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Syntactic template selection principle:

- The number of syntactic slots for arguments and argument-adjuncts within the core is equal to the number of distinct specified argument positions in the semantic representation of the core.
- Argument-modulation voice constructions reduce the number of core slots by 1.
- ...

Constructional schemas vs. general principles

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Accessibility to PSA (privileged syntactic argument) principles:

- English → accusative constructions: highest ranking direct core argument in terms of the PSA selection hierarchy (default)
- English → non-macrorole direct core arguments can be PSA (!?)
- ...

Constructional schemas vs. general principles

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Pragmatics:

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Focus structure: no restrictions; PSA = topic (default)

General characterization of basic voice constructions

- PSA modulation voice: permits an argument other than the default argument in terms of the PSA selection hierarchy to function as the privileged syntactic argument.
- Argument modulation voice: gives non-canonical realization to a macrorole argument.

Constructional schemas vs. general principles

Example Constructional schema for English relative clause formation

Syntax:

Juncture: nuclear_N

Nexus: subordination (peripheral)

Construction type: clausal modifier

Template(s): main clause; relative clause template: external head; relative clause: [±PrCS],
→ Syntactic template selection principle

PSA: none

Linking: ...

Morphology:

CLM *that* (required if there is no relative pronoun and if head noun = PSA of subordinate clause; otherwise optional)

Semantics:

restrictive modifier; **be**(x_i , [**pred**(... y_j ...)]), where y is either a relative pronoun or lexically unfilled

Pragmatics: ...

Syntactic template selection principle:

- ...
- The number of slots in a core is reduced by 1 if it occurs in an externally headed relative clause construction in which the head noun is a semantic argument of the predicate.

Constructional schemas and RRG formalization

Observation

- The information expressed in RRG's constructional schemas cuts across the metagrammar and TAG/TWG proper, in general.
- For instance, while the constructional schema for English passive voice formation is built completely in the metagrammar, the schema for English relative clause formation requires both elementary trees and tree operations.

Constructional schemas and RRG formalization

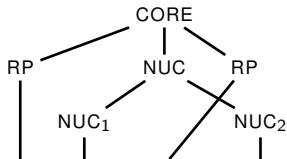
Example Constructional schema for English resultative construction

MORPHOLOGY —

SYNTAX Juncture: nuclear

Nexus: cosubordination

Construction type: serial verb



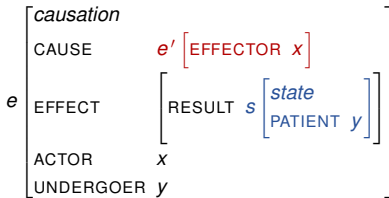
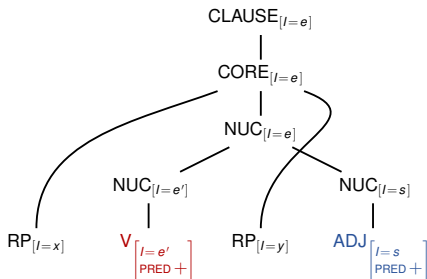
Linking: default

SEMANTICS [$\langle \text{SEM}_{\text{NUC}_1} \rangle$] CAUSE [$\langle \text{SEM}_{\text{NUC}_2} \rangle$]

PRAGMATICS unspecified

Constructional schemas and RRG formalization

Example (Adjectival) resultative construction in English
 (kick open, push shut, wipe clean, ...)



[Osswald/Kallmeyer 2018]

Constructional schemas and RRG formalization

Example (Adjectival) resultative construction in English

