

[21284001]

In Poland 's rapid shift from socialism to an undefined alternative , environmental issues have become a cutting edge of broader movements to restructure the economy . cut cumbersome bureaucracies , and democratize local politics .

[21284002]

Initial steps were taken at Poland 's first international environmental conference , which I attended last month .

[21284003]

The conference , held in Lower Silesia , was co-sponsored by the Environment Ministry , the Rockefeller Brothers Fund , and the Polish Ecological Club , and was attended by 50 Poles from government and industry , as well as Hungarians , Czechs , Russians , Japanese and Americans .

[21284005]

Even more remarkably , it focused on emissions trading and similar market approaches to address pollution , notwithstanding Poland 's lack of functioning markets .

[21284006]

Why did East Bloc participants unanimously endorse market-based pollution approaches ?

[21284008]

Like other East Bloc countries , Poland possesses environmental laws more honored in their breach than in their observance .

[21284009]

According to a detailed report by Zbigniew Bochmarz of the University of Minnesota 's Hubert Humphrey Institute , 27 areas containing a third of Poland 's population are regarded as " ecological hazards " due to multiple violations of standards .

[21284010]

Norms are consistently exceeded at 60 % of nitrogen oxide monitoring sites and 80 % of those for dust and soot emissions .

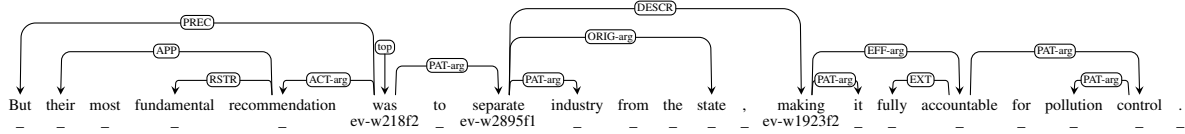
[21284014]

Its mortality rate for males over 35 is about 50 % higher than West Germany 's , and 50 % higher in hazard areas than the national average .

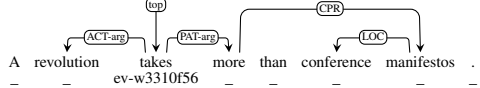
[21284015]

Since 1978 , average annual growth rates for most pollutants have outstripped the growth of GNP .

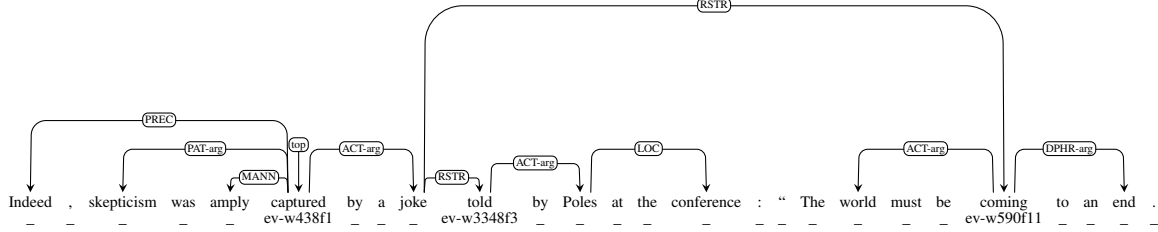
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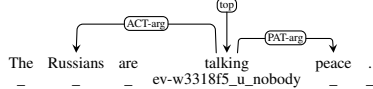
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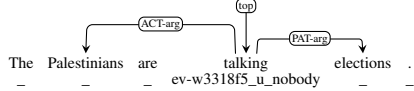
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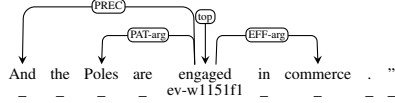
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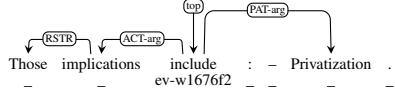
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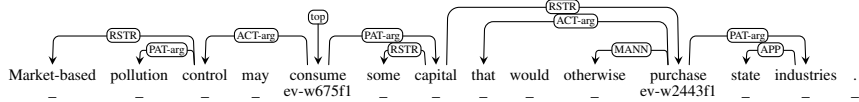
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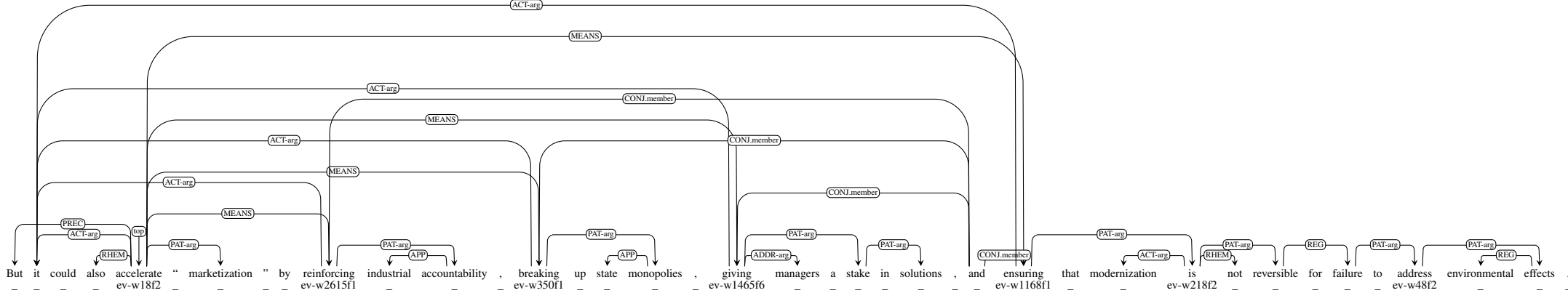
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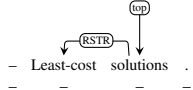
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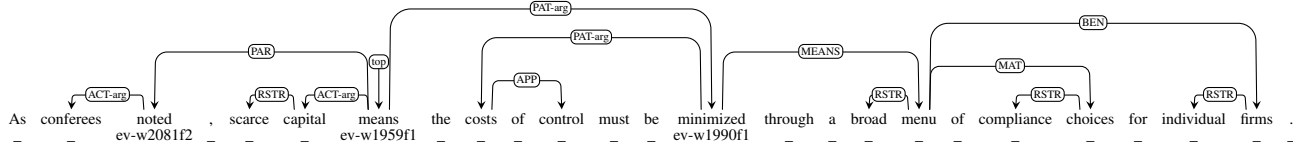
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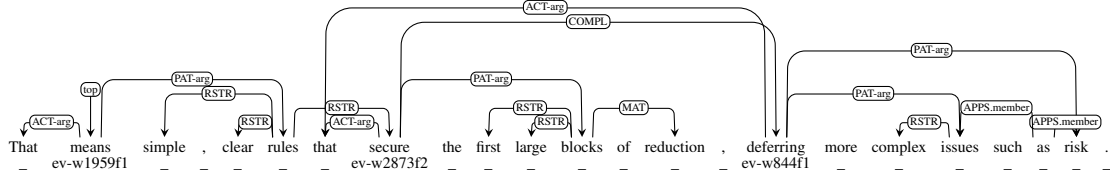
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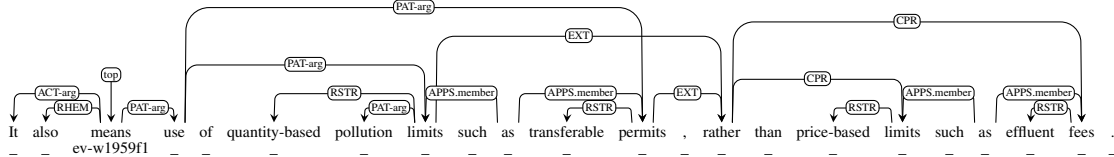
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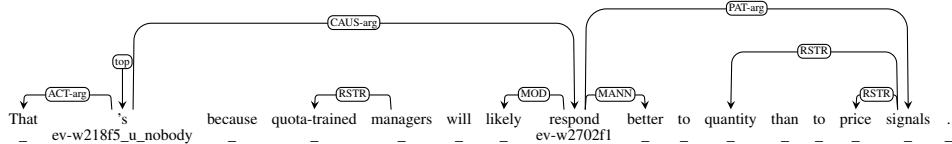
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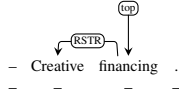
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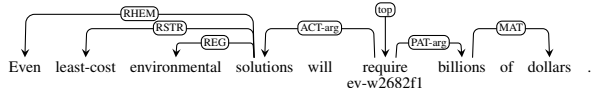
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[21284035]



[21284036]



[21284037]

