

Annotation Guidelines for [openboek](#) Events

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Events

The objective of this annotation task is to identify and annotate the events within sentences. An event is defined as the primary action or state expressed by the main verb in a sentence. For this task we consider every verb, that is not an auxiliary verb, as an event. If the verb is an event, we will assign a tag to it; realis or non-realís.

Determine realis or non-realis

After determining if a verb is an event, we want to assign a tag to it. Realis events are actions that certainly took place. Non-realis events are actions that did not take place at all, did not take place yet or it is not sure if it really happened.

Tense

This can be done by determining the tense of the verb first. If the verb has a future tense or is an imperative, we tag it as non-realis.

Example imperative:

- **Sentence:** "breng mij een stoel , mijn grootheid reikt niet tot aan deze plank."
- **Explanations:** 'Breng mij een stoel' is an imperative phrase which means that the verb 'breng' did not happen yet. Which makes it non-realis.

Polarity

Verbs in sentences that convey negation or express a negative condition are also marked with the non-realis tag. Negative polarity refers to the presence of negative words like "niet", "nooit" or "geen" or words that carry negative connotations, altering the meaning of the verb to indicate the absence or denial of an action or state. Also any feeling of doubt will result in a non-realis tag.

Example negation

- **Sentence:** "Gij vergeet niet, dat ge terug moet zijn?"
- **Explanation:** The word 'niet' indicates a negative polarity that affects the verb 'vergeet', which means that the event should be tagged as non-realis.

Example negation but still realis:

- **Sentence:** "Uw tranen hebben voor mij geen waarde!"
- **Explanation:** The word 'geen' has a negative polarity but does not affect the verb 'hebben'. This means that the event did happen and should be tagged as realis.

Example

If the event is part of an example, it did not actually happen and is therefor tagged as non-realis

Example of an example:

- **Sentence:** "als iemand die gaarne wenschte te redeneeren."
- **Explanation:** The use of "als" indicates the use of an example. The verb 'wenschte' is used for a description of someone but the action of the verb did not really happen and should be tagged as a non-realis event.

Question

The event is considered non-realistic if it is part of a question, as we do not know for sure if the action of the event took place.

Example:

- **Sentence:** "Zijn er ook acten van het gerecht gekomen?"
- **Explanation:** For this example it is questioned if the event 'gekomen' actually happened. It is therefore tagged as non-realistic.

If the event is not considered non-realistic, we can tag it as realistic.

Separate verb particle

In Dutch you have a lot of words that have a separable word particle that is important to include but is not attached to the main part of the word. If the sentence part has a separable word part in it, we put up a flag for that sentence part which indicates the presense of the word particle. We don't specifically tag the separable word part, we only flag that there is one present.

A word is a separable word part when you combine the main verb that is the event of this sentence part and the separable word particle, make it plural and put it in the <https://anw.ivdnt.org/search> search engine. If it gives a response, it is a separable word particle.

Example

- **Sentence:** "Henk had zijn rok op de bank neêrgegooid , en stond zich , in vest en hemdsmouwen , zijn traditioneelen grog klaar te maken
- **Explanation:** for this example the event is 'maken' but the action of the event is 'klaarmaken'. This means that we will annotate that this event has a separate verb particle.

Agent and Patient

To get a better understanding of the semantic relationship of events, we will tag the agents and patients of the events.

The agent is the entity that is considered to control or perform the event and the patient is the entity that undergoes the effect of the event. Most of the time the patient is the direct object of the sentence, in case of an active voice. For passive sentences the positions of the agent and patient are often switched.

Change of state

Example of change of state

- **Sentence:** "Haastig gooide ze de deur open , bang dat ze zich omdraaien en vluchten zou ."
- **Explanation:** The entity 'ze' performed the event 'gooide' and is considered the agent. The entity 'de deur' underwent the effect of the event, which changed its state to 'open', and should be tagged as agent.

Example of no change of state

- **Sentence:** "Cateau was een poetje."
- **Explanation:** 'Cateau' is considered the agent of the event 'was' but 'een poetje' is not considered as patient, as the entity itself does not change state or undergo the effect of the event.

Antecedent

For the annotation of the agent and patient, we want to prevent the use of coreference and if possible use the antecedent of the entity that we consider as the agent or patient.

Example

- **Sentence:** "Alleen Bavink zei niets, hij zat met z'n kin op z'n knieën en ontving de zon in z'n hart."
- **Explanation:** The closest agent of the event 'zat' is the entity 'he', but we know that 'he' refers to the entity 'Bavink'. We therefore select 'Bavink' as agent instead of 'he'.

Important works

Ace 2005:

<https://www ldc.upenn.edu/sites/www ldc.upenn.edu/files/english-events-guidelines-v5.4.3.pdf>

Light ERE:

<https://aclanthology.org/W14-2907.pdf>

Bamman:

https://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~dbamman/pubs/pdf/acl2019_literary_events.pdf