HG2002: Tutorial 9
Componential Analysis

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1. Using semantic components, analyze the following words:

   son, daughter, child, mother, father, parent, grandfather, grandmother, grandparent

   Discuss whether a binary format would be an advantage here.
   You may use two place relations in your descriptions (e.g. [SIBLING-OF[X,Y]].
   If you speak a language that makes additional distinctions in this area, also describe them (e.g. maternal grandmother, …).

2. Which of the following participate in the **causative/inchoative alternation**.

   (1) *The goalkeeper bounced the ball.*
   (2) *The assassin murdered the general.*
   (3) *The waiter melted the chocolate.*
   (4) *Charlie built the new swimming pool.*
   (5) *The people lowered the boat.*
   (6) *Kim worried Sandy.*
   (7) *The censors destroyed the film.*
   (8) *Jo dried the clothes.*

   For those verbs that do undergo the alternation, translate them into a language of your choice and report on whether the translations undergo a similar alternation.

3. Levin and Rapaport Hovav (1995: 102–5) argue that transitive verbs which do not undergo the **causative/inchoative alternation** need an intentional and volitional Agent. In contrast, verbs that undergo this alternation should also allow a non-Agent subject:

(a) *John broke the window with a rock*	Agent Subject
(b) *The rock broke the window*	Non-Agent (Instrument) Subject
(c) *The window broke*	Inchoative Alternation

   Test this hypothesis on the sentences from Question 2.

4. Consider the following semantic and syntactic tests for countability:

   - Semantic: Can it be divided and still use the same name (**divisibility**):
     - Mass: *half some gold* is *gold*
     - Count: *half a dog* is not *a dog*
   - Syntactic: does it co-occur with *much* or *many* (**enumerability**):
     - Mass: *I don't have much gold*
     - Count: *I don't have many dogs*

   Classify the following nouns using these tests:

   monkey, program, software, chair, furniture, beer, icecream, curry, chocolate, chicken, salmon, potato, rice, oats, mink

   Do the tests always give unique results? If not, why not?

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