HG4041 Theories of Grammar

Structure of the lexicon

Francis Bond
Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies
http://www3.ntu.edu.sg/home/fcbond/
bond@ieee.org

Lecture 6
Location: LHN-TR+36

Questions

Q: can you please explain or give examples on the lexical rule instantiation?

A: There are many in the slides

Q: Why is there a need for default?

A: So that we can express things more compactly

Q: What is an example of a constraint that will cause contradiction to the default constraint inheritance?

A: $\text{SPR} < DP >$ in proper noun *Miami Heat*

Q: Why is ARG-ST included under adj-lxm & conj-lxm, but not adv-lxm & det-lxm?

A: I think it is everywhere, maybe just not shown for space

Q: In a nutshell, would it be accurate to say that inflectional rules affect the SYN feature while derivational rules affect the SEM feature?

A: I think that describes their main effect, yes (although of course both get changed)

Q: In this week's readings it said that lexeme and expression are both direct subtypes of synsem. Looking at the tree given on pg 229, I have the understanding that the features that fall under expressions cannot be in the same synsem as the features that fall under lexeme. However, I do not really understand what this means, how it is possible or if my understanding is even correct.

A: Yes, that is correct. So, for example, $phrase$ does not have ARG-ST

Q: Last-week's topic: For the imperative rule, why is the COMPS list empty?

A: Because we want the verb to have all of its compliments before we use it. **Put!* vs *Put it there!*

Q: Is the defeasible symbol '/' only used for lexeme?

A: No it can be used elsewhere (such as in rules)

Q: What is the difference between an empty list <> and a defeasible list / <>? (E.g. ARG-ST $< DP > +$ <> and ARG-ST $< DP > +/$ <>)

A: One can be overuled by more specific types the other cannot.

Q: Gerneral qns Is ARG-ST $< DP$
$[COUNT+] >$ ([...] on the 2nd line) and ARG-ST DP [COUNT $+$] the same?

A: No: only the first one is correct (ARG-ST must be a list)

Q: Could you explain what the function of INPUT and OUTPUT is? Why do we need them?

A: Input is daughter, output is mother. The rule applies to something (the input) to make something different (the output), declaratively.

Q: Apart from the exceptions of some proper nouns like mountains and team names, could this exception (that proper nouns are usually 3sing and ARG-ST list must be empty) be applied to brand names as well?

For example,
(1) The Blackberrys/-ies we saw today were stunning!
(2) *The Blackberrys/ies we saw today is stunning!

A: Yes!

Q: In the beginning of the chapter, they were talking about the concept of "words with spaces". What are they and how does it relate to the chapter's discussion of lexemes?

A: Things that look like two words, but act as one: *ad hoc*

Q: How do we determine whether or not a constraint is defeasible? Is everything non-defeasible till there is a counterexample that shows that it is?

A: In the model, it is only defeasible if we say it is. We make things defeasible if they are true for most types, but not all.

Q: Why does the book say that only S with FORM finite can be stand-alone sentences (51), when it gave examples in its list (48) of values for FORM that are also acceptable sentences?

A: in examples like *Kim is eating lunch*, *eating* is FORM prp, but the sentence is headed by *is* which is FORM fin.

Acknowledgments and References

- Course design and slides borrow heavily from Emily Bender's course: *Linguistics 566: Introduction to Syntax for Computational Linguistics*
  `http://courses.washington.edu/ling566`