

Semantic relations

Taxonomy, Partonomy, Attributes, Roles

Bill Croft, February 15, 2025

KEY



taxonomic relation



prototype hyponym



other hyperonym-hyponym relation



marginal or not really hyponym



primary partonomic relation



other partonomic relation



feature (attribute) relation



role relation

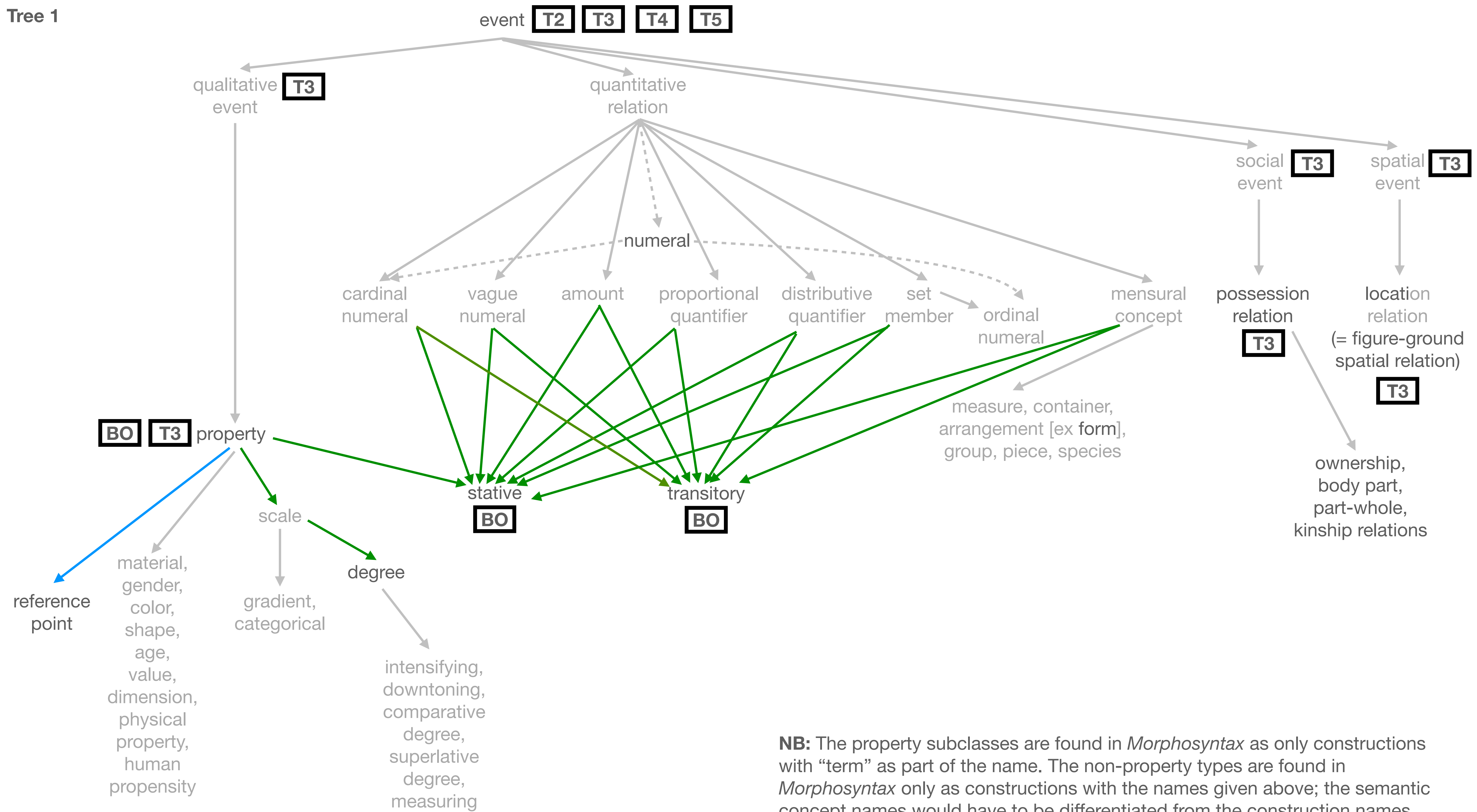
semantic

semantic term not in *Morphosyntax* (but should be)

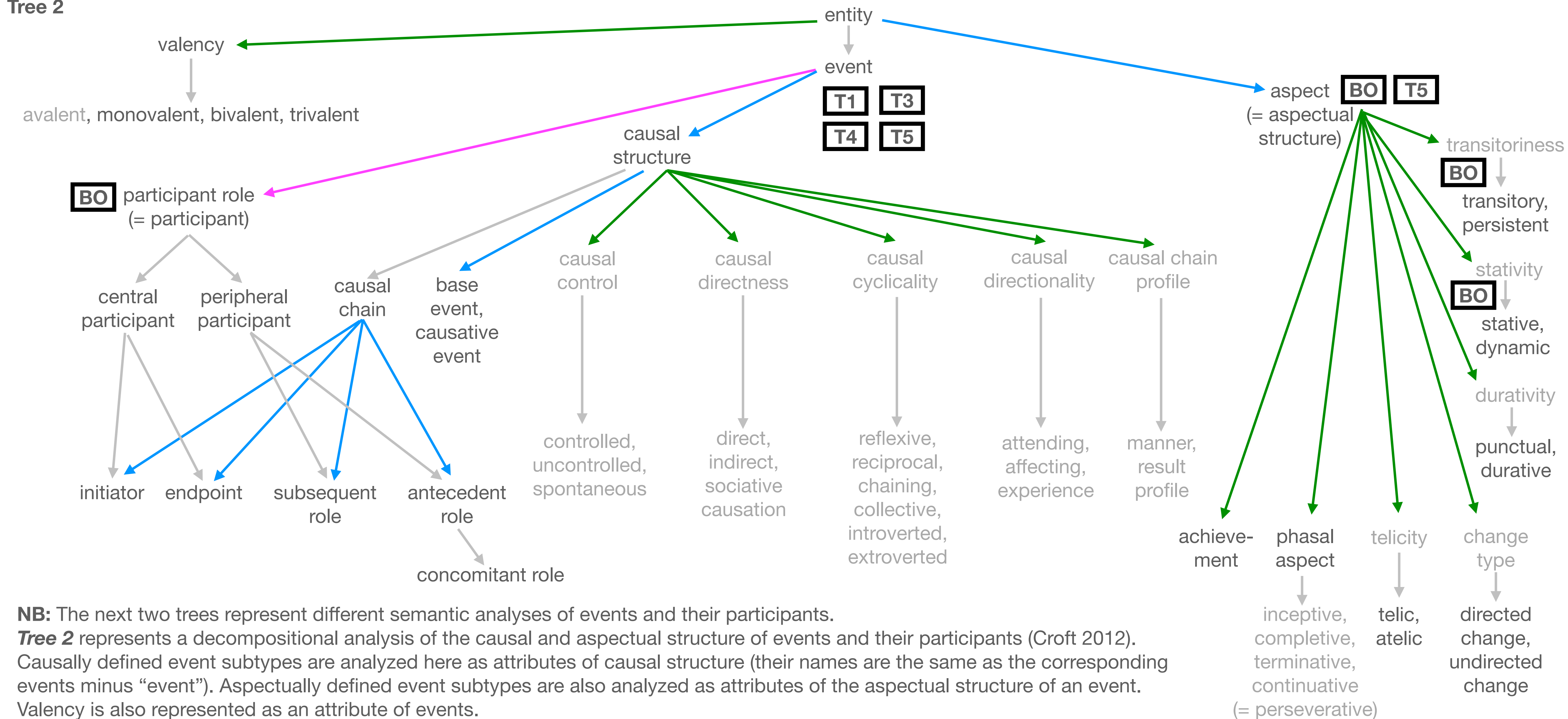


this tree is linked to Tree # at this node

Tree 1



Tree 2



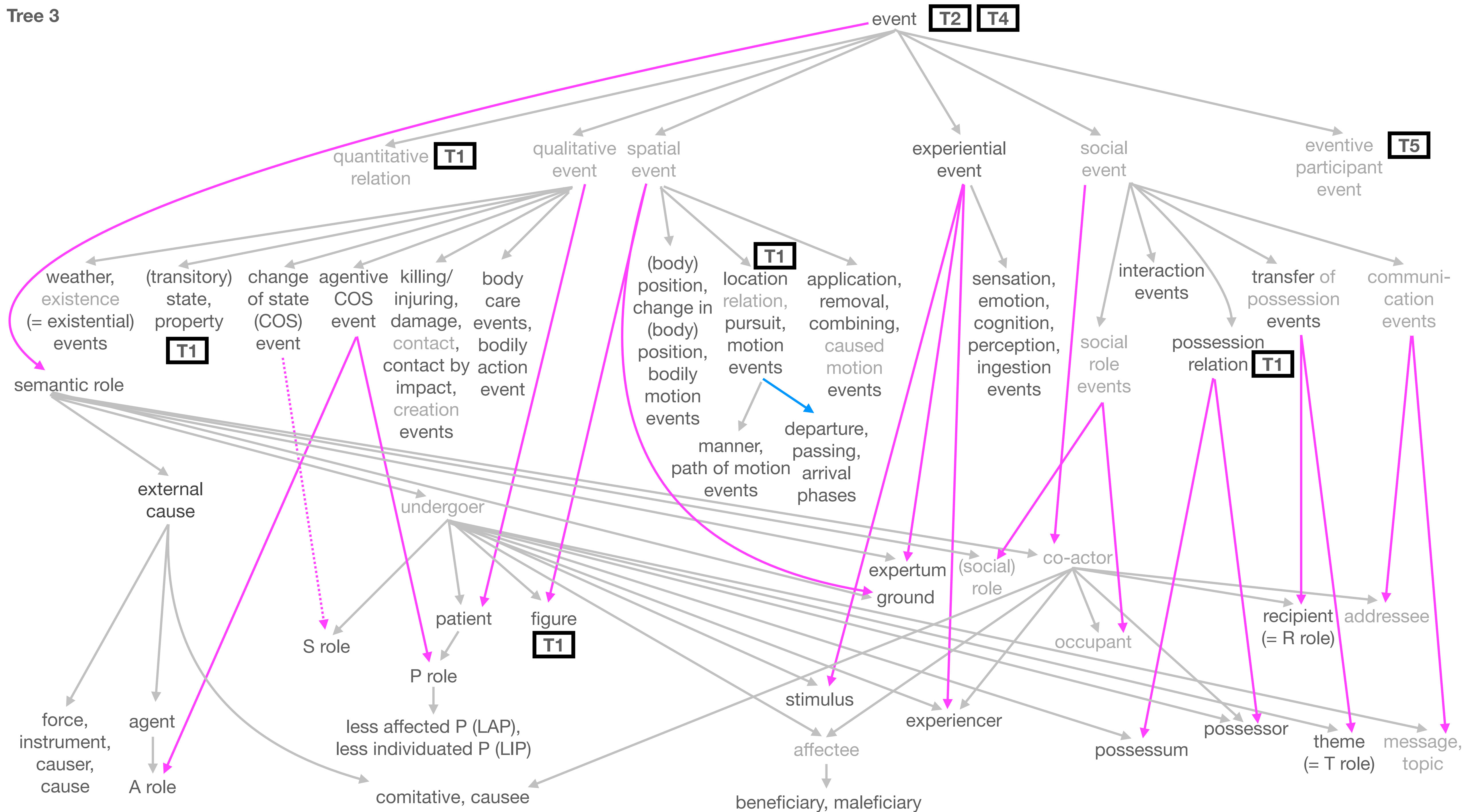
NB: The next two trees represent different semantic analyses of events and their participants.

Tree 2 represents a compositional analysis of the causal and aspectual structure of events and their participants (Croft 2012). Causally defined event subtypes are analyzed here as attributes of causal structure (their names are the same as the corresponding events minus “event”). Aspectually defined event subtypes are also analyzed as attributes of the aspectual structure of an event. Valency is also represented as an attribute of events.

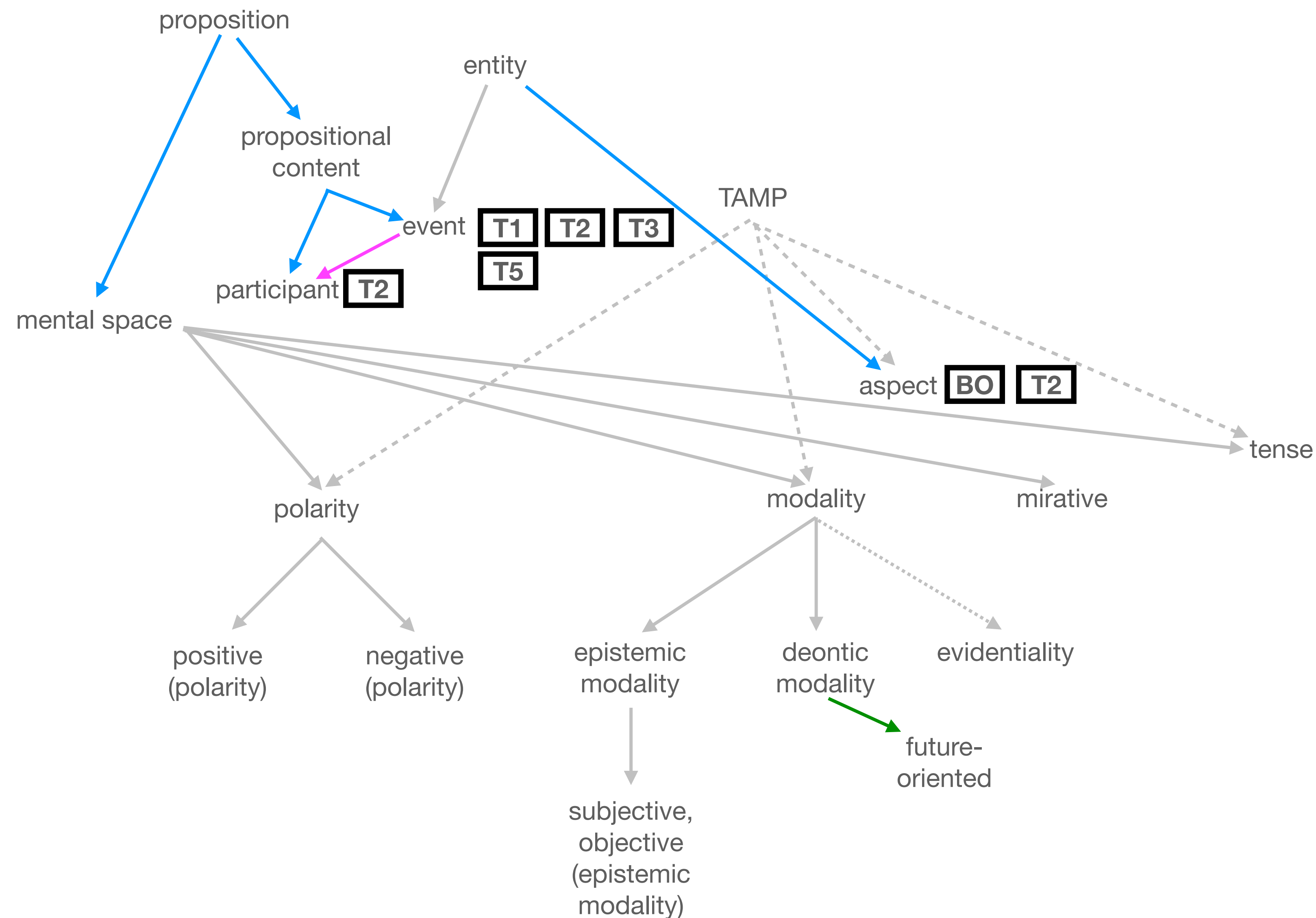
Tree 3 represents a standard set of event classes by semantic domain, with event superclasses to structure the taxonomy (unpublished work, from NSF grant #2213804 on Uniform Meaning Representation). The classification of social events, previously not well explored, is based on Kalm 2022 [PhD dissertation]). Events with other events as participants are found in Tree 6, grouped into an “eventive-participant event” superclass. Quantitative events are grouped into a “quantitative event” superclass in Tree 1.

Tree 3 also includes standard semantic roles, most of them grouped under external cause, undergoer and co-actor “super-roles”, with some semantic roles fitting into more than one “super-role”.

Tree 3



Tree 4



NB: The propositional content of a proposition is essentially the same as the event, including its participants (i.e., “who did what to whom”). In *Morphosyntax*, I follow the mental space analysis of propositions and semantic categories associated with propositions. A proposition is essentially an event in a particular mental space, either ‘reality space’ (i.e. a proposition taken to be true by the interlocutors) or a non-real mental space representing polarity, modal/evidential status, or also a particular time. Hence polarity, modality-evidentiality and tense are subtypes of mental spaces. A non-mental space analysis might simply have polarity, modality-evidentiality and tense as attributes of a proposition.

Tree 5

