MRS Design for Light Verb Constructions in the Grammar Matrix

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Definition (WIP)

- light verb construction (LVC): a type of complex predicate comprised of a light verb (LV) and a "coverb" where most (but not necessarily all) of the [?lexical meaning] comes from the "coverb"

  - V+N, V+Adj, V+V

  - LV and coverb share one argument structure?

- complex predicate should consist of things in same position in scope tree (shouldn't be able to have e.g. negation modify one part or have quantifiers go between)

  - "I persuaded Francis to take a hike." (narrow vs wide scope of "a hike") complex predicates should not have these two scopes

Examples

- French
  ```
  faire    une    proposition
  make     a      proposition
  ```
  "to make a proposal; to propose"

- Persian
  ```
  Be    Omid    tohmat    zade          šod.
  to    Omid    slander   hit.PST.PTCP   become
  ```
  "Omid was slandered."   Passive

  ```
  Omid    sili    [zad    va    xord].
  Omid    slap     hit    and   stroke
  ```
  "Amid have and received slaps."   Coordination

Examples

- English
have <u>a rest</u>, <u>a read</u>
take <u>a drive</u>, <u>a bath</u>
give <u>a shout</u>, <u>a ring</u>

- Urdu

naadyaa=ne   kahaanii   <u>yaad</u>   **k-ii**
Nadya.F.SG=ERG   story.F.SG   memory.F   do-PERF.F.SG   N-V
"Nadya remembered the story."

nadyaa=ne   xat   <u>lik^h</u>   **lii-yaa**
Nadya.F.SG=ERG   letter.M.NOM   write   take-PERF.M.SG   V-V
"Nadia wrote a letter (completely)."

Examples

- Japanese

  John-wa   Mary-ni   <u>hanashi-o</u>   **shita.**
  John-<small>TOP</small>   Mary-<small>DAT</small>   talk-<small>ACC</small>   do(suru)
  "John talked to Mary."

- Bardi (N. Australian)

  Gooljoo   <u>lol</u>   **inyjiidigal**
  grass   burn   <small>3SG.PST.go.REM.PST</small>
  "The grass caught fire."

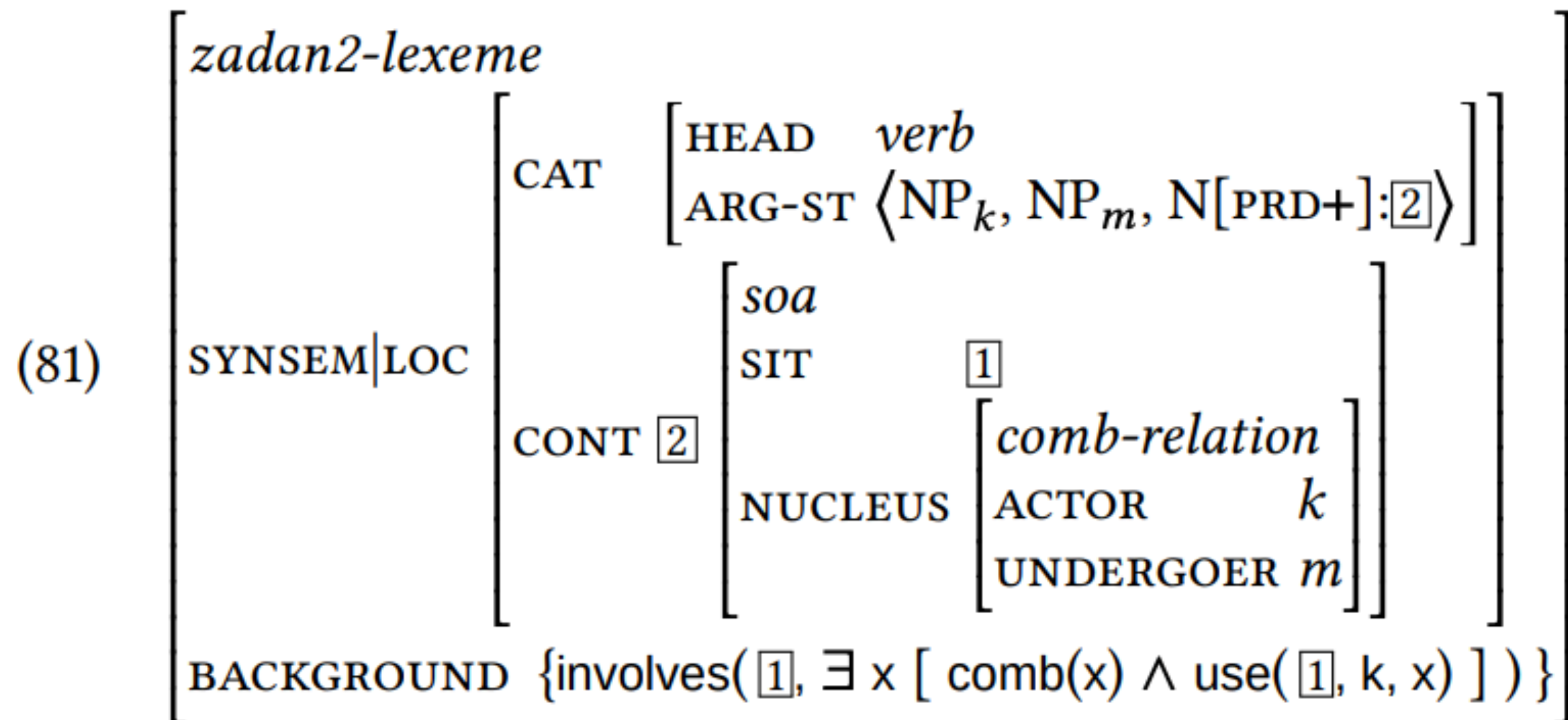# HPSG Handbook Feature Structures (Persian)

Compositional

- Olāq   be   Omid   <u>lagged</u>   **zad.**
  donkey   to. Omid   kick   hit
  "The donkey kicked Omid."

$$(79) \quad \begin{bmatrix} \textit{zadan1-lexeme} \\ \text{CAT} \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \textit{verb} \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \langle \text{NP}_k, (be)\text{NP}_m, \text{N}[\text{PRD}+]{:}\boxed{1} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{CONT} \boxed{1} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{soa} \\ \text{NUCLEUS} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{kick-relation} \\ \text{ACTOR} & k \\ \text{UNDERGOER} & m \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Somewhat Compositional/Somewhat Idiomatic

- Maryam   mu-hā=yaš=rā   <u>šane</u>   **zad.**
  Maryam   hair-PL=3SG=RA   <u>comb</u>   hit
  "Maryam combed her hair."

$$(81) \begin{bmatrix} \textit{zadan2-lexeme} \\ \text{SYNSEM}|\text{LOC} \begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \textit{verb} \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \langle \text{NP}_k, \text{NP}_m, \text{N}[\text{PRD}+]{:}\boxed{2} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{CONT} \; \boxed{2} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{soa} \\ \text{SIT} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{NUCLEUS} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{comb-relation} \\ \text{ACTOR} & k \\ \text{UNDERGOER} & m \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{BACKGROUND} \; \{\text{involves}(\boxed{1}, \exists x \, [\, \text{comb}(x) \wedge \text{use}(\boxed{1}, k, x) \,] \,)\} \end{bmatrix}$$

Somewhat Compositional/Somewhat Idiomatic

- Maryam   xod=rā   be   <u>divānegi</u>   **zad**
  Maryam   self=RA   to   madness   hit
  "Maryam feigned madness."

$$(83)\quad \begin{bmatrix} \textit{zadan3-lexeme} \\ \text{CAT} \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} \quad \textit{verb} \\ \text{ARG-ST} \left\langle \text{NP}_k, \text{pro}_k, \text{PP} \begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT}|\text{HEAD} \begin{bmatrix} \text{PFORM} \ \textit{be} \\ \text{PRD} \quad + \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{CONT} \ \boxed{1} \begin{bmatrix} \text{NUCLEUS} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{internal-problematic-state} \\ \text{EXPERIENCER} \ k \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{CONT} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{soa} \\ \text{NUCLEUS} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{pretend-relation} \\ \text{ACTOR} \quad k \\ \text{SOA-ARG} \ \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$
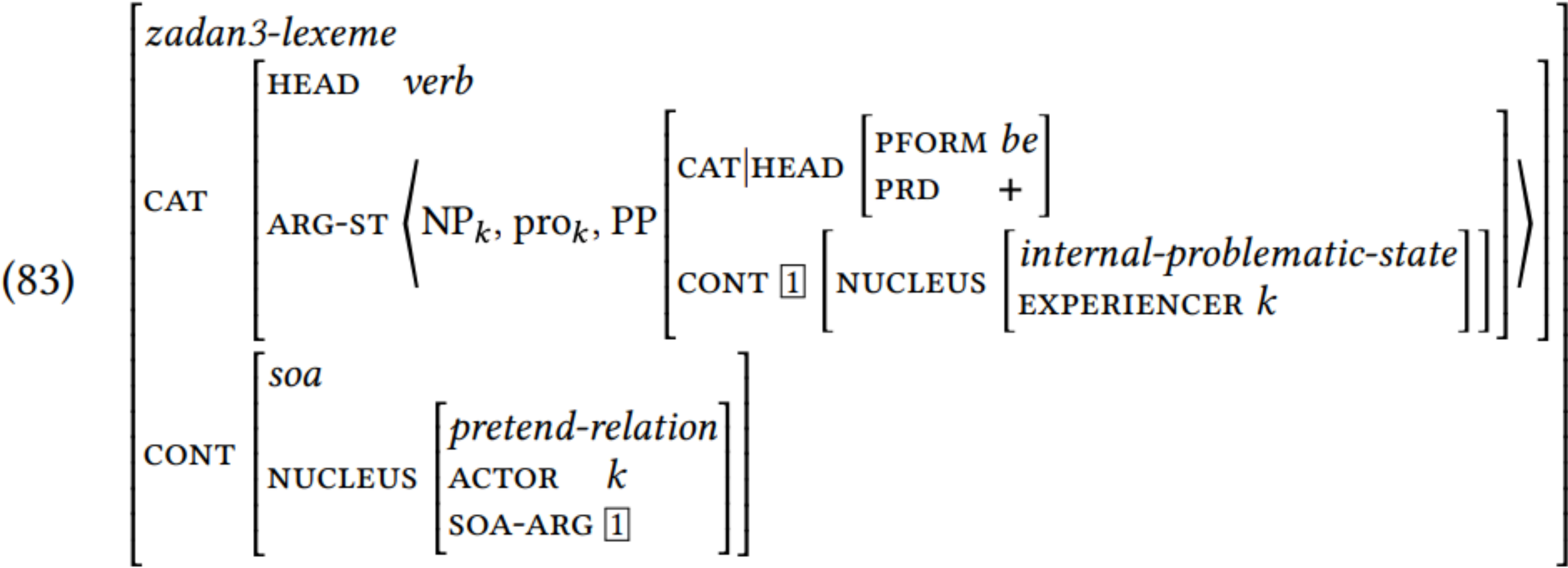
Idiomatic

- Barā=yaš   zeyli   <u>dest</u>   **zad-im.**
  for=3SG   a.lot   <u>hand</u>   hit-1PL
  "We applauded him a lot."

(85)

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\textit{zadan4-lexeme} \\
\text{CAT} \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \textit{verb} \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \langle \text{NP}_k, \text{PP}[\textit{be}]:\boxed{1}, \text{N}[\text{PRD+}, \text{LID } \textit{i-dast-relation}]\rangle \end{bmatrix} \\
\text{CONT} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{soa} \\ \text{NUCLEUS} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{i-start-relation} \\ \text{ACTOR} & k \\ \text{SOA-ARG} & \boxed{1} \begin{bmatrix} \text{NUCLEUS } \textit{event-relation} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}
\end{bmatrix}
$$

Help with MRS Design

References

Bowern, C. (2010). The typological implications of Bardi complex predicates.

Butt, M. (2010). The light verb jungle: Still hacking away. Complex predicates in cross-linguistic perspective, 48-78.

Godard, D., & Samvelian, P. (2021). Complex predicates. HeadDriven Phrase Structure Grammar, 419.