

Annotation Summary

July 11, 2002

1 Basic rules

1.1 Noun targets

If the target is a noun, we can annotate the following elements:

1. Modifiers: these appear to the left of the noun and may be adjectives or nouns (with PT A or N)

He is a [total] **fool**

I bought a [bread] **machine**

2. Complements: these appear on the right of the target and include some PPs (but beware, not all PPs to the right of the target are arguments of that target!), relative clauses and nonfinite verb phrases:

- PPs

Jack told a **story** [about ghosts]

- Relative Clauses:

I have a **doll** [which wets itself]

- Nonfinite VPs:

This is a **totem** [to scare away ghosts]

I made a **decision** [to tell the truth]

He sent a **card** [wishing us luck]

- Possessors: possessives of noun targets are annotated in one of two ways. With most nouns, the possessor is tagged with GF Gen. However, with event nouns (related to verbs) the possessor is tagged with GF Ext:

[Peter's (GEN)] **book** about sheep farming is on the bestseller list

[John's (EXT)] **decision** to adopt is worrying his family.

- Copula constructions: in a few cases we tag predicates of noun targets. If this is to be done in a particular frame, the vanguard should inform the annotators about it. In all other cases, check before annotating such constructions.

My **decision** is [to substitute Jenkins for Stevens in the second half of the match]

1.2 Verb targets

With verb targets we tag objects, adverbs and complements:

- NP objects:
Chris **gave** [the baby] a bath
- NP complements:
Chris **gave** the baby [a bath]
- PP (and Pping and Pwh) complements:
I **heard** [about the riot]
Kit **told** John [about the operation]
- Finite and non-finite VP complementss:
 - VPto:
Cassie **loves** [to ride horses]
 - VPing
Cassie **loves** [riding horses]
- Clausal complements:
 - Sfin
Jo **knows** [that the operation was a great success]
 - Sbrst:
The ordinance **requires** (that) noise outside be kept to a minimum
 - Swh:
I **asked** [what I should do]
 - Adverbs:
I **know** my lines [thoroughly]
Lisa [really] **hates** Mondays.
- Adjective phrases (usually resultatives):
I **pulled** the knife [free]
- Particles:
You should **put** your toys [away]
(NB Particles have GF=Comp and PT=PP)

1.3 Adjective targets

With adjective targets, we can tag adverbial modifiers:

Cal is a [really] **charming** man

Your house is [shockingly] **beautiful**.

In addition, when the adjective is inside an NP, we can tag the head noun to the right. We do not tag possessive phrases since these modify the noun, not the adjective:

I admired your **beautiful** [house]

We understand John's **difficult** [decision]

When the adjective is predicative (not inside an NP) it may take PP complements, nonfinite VPs and clausal complements:

1. PPs (and Pping and Pwh):

- Pping

I was **tired** [of shopping for clothes]

- PP

It was **smart** [of you] to buy those shares when you did

- Pwh

He was **confused** [about what to do]

2. VPs:

- VPto:

It was **smart** of you [to buy those shares when you did]

- Vping

He was **busy** [making cookies for the meeting]

3. Sfin

It's **terrible** [that Abby couldn't come to the meeting]

4. wh We were **curious** [why it happened]

2 Exceptions to the basic rules

The only times we might annotate constituents outside of these basic positions are when tagging the External Argument.

2.1 EXT with Noun and Adjective targets

If a noun or adjective target has a support verb, we tag the subject of the support verb as the external argument of the target:

[Jo EXT] [made SUPP] a **decision** about what colour socks to wear.

[Carl EXT] [is SUPP] **happy** about Jo's decision.

For adjective targets, this only occurs when the adjective is predicative - not inside an NP modifying a head noun, as in:

*[Carl] is a **happy** [man]

2.2 EXT with Verb targets

In a number of situations, we can look outside of the clause in which a verb target appears to mark its external argument. These situations include:

1. Control and raising predicates: If the target is inside a clause which is an argument of one of the many control and raising predicates, we tag its external argument in the main (controlling) clause:

[Jo] wants to **buy** some Argyle socks

[Jo] seems to **like** peanuts.

2. Participles: If the target is a verb in participle form and modifies an NP, we can tag the NP as the External Argument:

Walking past my house, [the postman] tripped up and dropped his bag of mail.

Further details are in the beloved slip 103.

3. Purpose clauses: If the target is in a purpose clause and the main clause is active, we can tag the subject of the matrix clause as the external argument of the target. If the matrix clause is passive, we have to use CNI for the subject of the target. Again, details are available in slip 103:

[John] broke the lock on the fridge to **steal** the cake

3 Gov/X Annotation

When annotating noun targets, the noun may occur prototypically as an argument of particular types of events. These events are not part of the annotation in this frame but belong to another frame which may or may not have been created and annotated. The aim of Gov/X annotation is to note the relationship between the nouns being annotated and the governors/frames they often occur with.

As a consequence of this, arguments of a governing verb or preposition should not be annotated except for the constituent containing the target which receives the X tag.

4 Null Instantiation

4.1 NI with Verbs

NI tags are used only for core FEs (these should be identified as such in the frame description). NI tags are used if a conceptually required FE is not annotatable by any of the above rules.

Verbs can occur with all three types of NI:

4.2 CNI

Constructionally licensed NI tagging is used for omitted agents of passives and the missing subjects of imperatives and independent gerunds and infinitives as well as in the so-called ‘recipe construction’. Definite NI tagging is used if the entity has already been mentioned or is somehow understood in context. Indefinite NI is less frequent but is mainly used where there is a conventionally understood *type* of object, e.g. in the question **Have you eaten?**. These types are all outlined in more detail on the training handout entitled ‘Scarier annotation’.

4.3 NI with Nouns

The only NI tag ever used with nouns is DNI. While arguments of nouns can often be omitted without a definite reference being recoverable from context, there are certain cases where DNI should be used. For example:

I found a **piece** on the floor. (DNI Whole)

Our **departure** was delayed. (DNI Source)

Further details are in the delightful slip 283.