SHE III Lexical Semantics of English: Syllabus

University of Konstanz

SoSe 2022

1 Course information

Instructor	Dr. Natasha Korotkova
Contact	n.korotkova@uni-konstanz.de
Language	English; you're welcome to communicate with me in German
Lectures	Tuesday 15:15–16:45; G 309
Tutorium	Tuesday 17:00–18:30; G 309
Webpage	https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de/goto_ILIASKONSTANZ_crs_1392176.html

I prefer to be addressed on a first name basis (Natasha), but if you're more comfortable with the last name, then go for it. Do not, however, use my legal name (Natalia) that you might have seen in various university systems such as Zeus or Ilias. If you want to use an honorific in English, use "Dr." and not "Ms.". Unlike in German, it is uncommon to address people using "Mr." or "Ms." in an academic setting. Finally, never address a woman using the outdated "Mrs." that used to signal her marital status.

2 Course description

Lexical semantics involves the linguistic study of meaning at the word level and below, focusing on what words mean, how these meanings can be analyzed and broken down into basic concepts, and how the meanings of individual words or word classes affect inference and interpretation at the phrasal or sentential level. This course examines a number of questions in these areas, including: how are the meanings of words determined from their internal morphological structure? What rules govern systematic correspondences between word classes? What kinds of information can be lexically encoded? Topics include the lexicon and lexical decomposition, lexical aspect and its connections to the mass/count distinction in nouns, and the inferential properties of words (factivity, implicativity, scalar inferences).

3 Policies

- **Readings** Readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. All readings can be downloaded from Ilias.

- **Participation** You are expected to attend class (as many sessions as possible) and to participate in the discussion. Participation is worth 10% of your overall grade.

- **Exams** There will be a take-home midterm exam and a cumulative take-home final, each contributing 45% of the overall grade. You have to pass each exam in order to pass the class, which means that failing one of them means failing the class. Late submissions will be penalized by taking 10% off the grade for each day except for cases of documented illness and emergencies.

— **Midterm**: posted on June 1, due on June 20 (by midnight)

— **Final**: posted on July 14, due on July 21 (by midnight)

• **Tutorium** Attending the Tutorium is optional, however, it is highly encouraged.

• **Emergencies and personal situations** If something comes up during the semester that affects your ability to participate or will affect your performance, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. I want you to succeed in this (and your other classes), and I understand that issues arise. The earlier you talk to me, the more likely I am to be able to work with you to find a solution.

ACTIVITY	CONTRIBUTION TO THE FINAL GRADE
Participation	10%
Mid-term	45%
Final exam	45%

4   Schedule (subject to change)

1. Introduction and overview   April 12

2. Inference types   April 19
   Reading: Murphy Ch.1, Ch.6

3. Sense relations and polysemy   April 26
   Reading: Murphy Ch.5.2, Cruse 1995; Dölling 2020

4. Types of lexical information, verbs of judging   May 3
   Reading: Fillmore 1971, McCawley1979

5. Nouns and countability   May 10
   Reading: Murphy Ch.8; Wierzbicka 1988 Ch.9

6. Adjectives, properties, gradability   May 17
   Reading: Murphy Ch.11; Dixon 1982; Kennedy 2012

7. Pragmatic enrichment and implicature   May 24
   Reading: Horn 1984

8. Factives and implicatives   May 31
   Reading: Kiparsky & Kiparsky 1970; Karttunen 1971

> No class on June 7 due to Pfingstferien
> No class on June 14 due to consolidation week
> Midterm posted on June 1, due on June 20

9. Semantic roles   June 21 (**asynchronous**; I'm away in North America)
   Reading: Dowty 1979; Davis 2011; Levin & Rappaport Hovav 2005 (excerpts)
   No tutorium on June 21

10. Argument structure and alternations   June 28
    Reading: Fillmore 1970; Dowty 1991; Rappaport Hovav & Levin 2012

11. Manner and result   July 5
    Reading: Slobin 1996; Rappaport Hovav & Levin 2010

12. Lexical aspect and aspectual classes   July 12
    Reading: Vendler 1957; Dowty 1977; Mittwoch 2019

> Review for the exam/extra office hours: Thursday, July 14, 10:00–11:30, location TBA
> No class on July 19
> Final posted on July 14, due on July 21 (by midnight)

5 Readings

- Cruse, D. 1995. Polysemy and related phenomena from a cognitive linguistic viewpoint. In P. Saint-Dizier and E. Viegas, eds., *Computational lexical semantics*, 33–49. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Davis, A.R. 2011. Thematic roles. In C. Maienborn, K. von Heusinger, and P. Portner, eds., *Semantics: An International Handbook of Natural Language Meaning*, 399–420. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

- Dixon, W. 1982. *Where Have All the Adjectives Gone? and Other Essays in Semantics and Syntax*. Berlin: Mouton.

- Dölling, J. 2020. Systematic Polysemy. In L. Matthewson, C. Meier, H. Rullmann, and T. E. Zimmermann, eds., The Blackwell Companion to Semantics.

- Dowty, D. 1979. *Word Meaning and Montague Grammar*. Sections 2.1–2.4, 3.8. Dordrecht: Reidel.

- Fillmore, C. 1970. The grammar of hitting and breaking. In R. Jacobs and P. Rosenbaum, eds., *Readings in English Transformational Grammar*, 120–133. Waltham: Ginn.

- Fillmore, C. 1971. Verbs of Judging: An Exercise in Semantic Description. In C. Fillmore and T. Langendoen, eds., *Studies in Linguistic Semantics*, 272–289. New York: Holt, Reinhart and Winston, Inc.

- Horn, L. 1984. Toward a new taxonomy for pragmatic inference: Q-based and R-based implicature. In D. Schiffrin, ed., *Meaning, Form, and Use in Context: Linguistic Applications*, 11–42. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.

- McCawley, J. 1979. Verbs of Bitching. In J. McCawley *Adverbs, Vowels, and Other Objects of Wonder*, 135–150. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Karttunen, L. 1971. Implicative verbs. *Language* 47, 340–358.

- Kennedy, C. 2012. Adjectives. In G. Russell and D.G. Fara (eds.), *Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Language*. Routledge.

- Kiparsky, P. & C. Kiparsky. 1970. Fact. In D.D. Steinberg and L.A. Jakobovits, eds., *Semantics: An Interdisciplinary Reader in Philosophy, Linguistics and Psychology*, 345–369. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Levin, B. & M. Rappaport Hovav. 2005. *Argument Realization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Mittwoch, A. 2019. Aspectual classes. In R. Truswell (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Event Structure*. Oxford: Blackwell.

- Murphy, M.L. 2010. *Lexical Meaning*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Rappaport Hovav, M. & B. Levin. 2010. Reflections on manner/result complementarity. In M. Rappaport Hovav, E. Doron, and I. Sichel (eds.), *Syntax, Lexical Semantics, and Event Structure*, 21–38. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Rappaport Hovav, M. & B. Levin. 2012. Lexicon uniformity and the causative alternation. In M. Everaert, M. Marelj, and T. Siloni (eds.), *The Theta System: Argument Structure at the Interface*, 150–176. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Slobin, D. 1996. Two Ways to Travel: Verbs of Motion in English and Spanish. In M. Shibatani and S.A. Thompson, eds., *Grammatical Constructions: Their Form and Meaning*, 195–219. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Vendler, Z. 1957. Verbs and times. *The Philosophical Review* 66, 143–160.

- Wierzbicka, A. 1988. What's in a noun? Chapter 9 of The *Semantics of Grammar*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.