

Lexical Semantics

Review of topics

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1. Types of meaning: entailments, presuppositions, implicatures

- characteristics of different types of inference Weeks 2, 7, 12
- diagnostic tests for different types of meaning Weeks 2, 7, 12
- lexical items which triggers presuppositions and implicatures:
 - verbs of judging (Week 3)
 - factives & implicatives (Week 14)
 - scalar implicature (Week 7)
- *Review problem:* Assignment 4, Question 1

2. Sense relations and polysemy

- focus on polysemy in nouns: senses vs. facets, tests for polysemy Week 2
- hyper- and hyponymy, meronymy, synonymy, antonymy Week 2
- *Review problem:* Assignment 1, Questions 1-2 (solutions on reading list page on website)

3. Lexical decomposition in verbal meaning

- verbs of judging: presupposition vs. primary meaning Week 3
- denominal verbs (locatum and location verbs, how nominal meaning can be realized in verbs) Week 4
- *Review problems:* Assignment 2, Questions 1-3
- related topics: manner vs. result dichotomy (Week 13), explicating the causative alternation (Week 9)

4. The count/mass distinction in nouns

Week 5

- relevant conceptual properties: boundedness, homogeneity, divisibility (related to aspectual class distinctions)
- types of individual vs. collective reference (e.g., singulative affixes)
- reinterpreted meanings: universal packager, universal grinder
- features (\pm sg, \pm count, \pm a) and distributional criteria used to test for them (selectional restrictions of determiners and predicates)
- note parallels to aspectual class features (Week 12)
- *Review problems:* Assignment 3, Questions 1-2

5. Adjectives: properties and gradability

Week 6

- types of adjectival properties (property concepts cross-linguistically)
- gradability and types of scales (also, scalar implicatures related to adjectives, Week 7)
- polysemy in adjectives (Homework 1, Question 2)
- *Review problems:* Assignment 3, Question 3

6. Semantic roles

Weeks 8, 9

- a basic set of roles and diagnostic tests, relevance of roles in lexical analysis
Week 8
- case study: verbs of hitting and breaking
Week 9
- a precursor to semantic roles: identifying the participants in situations of judging
Week 3
- *Review question:* Assignment 4, Questions 2–3

7. Lexical aspect and aspectual classes

Weeks 11, 12

- the Vendlerian classes (plus semelfactives) and tests
- aspectual class features post-Vendler (telicity, dynamicity, durativity)
- a range of diagnostic tests
- selection restrictions of predicates, temporal modifiers, etc
- aspectual composition: effect of arguments on aspectual class, parallels with mass/count features
Week 12
- *Review problems:* Assignment 5, Questions 1–2

8. Manner/result dichotomy

Week 13

- lexicalization of manner and result components
- systematic pairings of manner/result verbs
- relationship between manner/result interpretation and the semantic roles of the nouns on which denominal verbs are based

9. Factives & implicatives

Week 14

- a closer study of presupposition and entailment as triggered by verbal meaning
- presupposition projection
- assertions vs. entailments
- textual inference, polarity calculations/inference and polarity projection
- *Review problem:* Assignment 4, Question 1