

Event structure: semantic roles, aspect, causation

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Abstract

The last three decades of development in semantics demonstrated an important role played in grammar by semantics of lexicon. Lexicographic definitions for verbs were suggested that have the form of decompositional semantic representations and unite information about semantic roles, causation and aspect. Progress in lexical semantics has demonstrated that these facets of verbal meaning, previously studied independently of one another, are closely related. Bringing them together we arrive at semantic representations that reveal the structure of event denoted by a verb and account for interrelations between its semantics and morphosyntax.

It is important to have in mind that meaning is flexible and context dependent – regular polysemy is strikingly widespread. Semantic representations in lexicon should take this flexibility and context dependency of meaning into account.

Short CV

- Doctor of philology, professor, foreign member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, Member of the Grammatical Committee of the Slavic linguistic society, European Linguistic society, Slavic Cognitive Linguistic Association, Computational Linguistics Association.

- Sphere of interests: mathematical methods in linguistics (especially, application of logic in linguistics), transformational syntax of Russian, theoretical semantics, semantics of quantification; semantics of tense and aspect (including tense and aspect in discourse in the framework of the theory of registers of interpretation and the structure of narrative), linguistic theory of reference and semantics of deixis; pragmatics and communicative aspects of sentence structure; lexical semantics, semantic databases and corpus linguistics.

- Main publications:

books (in Russian): *On semantics of syntax* (Nauka: 1974, 2^d edition – URSS: 2007); *Utterance and its reference* (Nauka: 1985, 5th edition – URSS: 2008), *Semantic explorations* (1996), *Dynamic models in semantics of lexicon* (2004);

about 400 articles in Russian, English, French and German (www.lexicograph.ru).

- Series of lectures and courses were given at the universities of Finland, Germany, Italy, Sweden, USA, Switzerland; Moscow State University, Moscow Humanitarian University, Novosibirsk State University.