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Double Trouble: The Problem of Construal in Semantic Annotation of Adpositions

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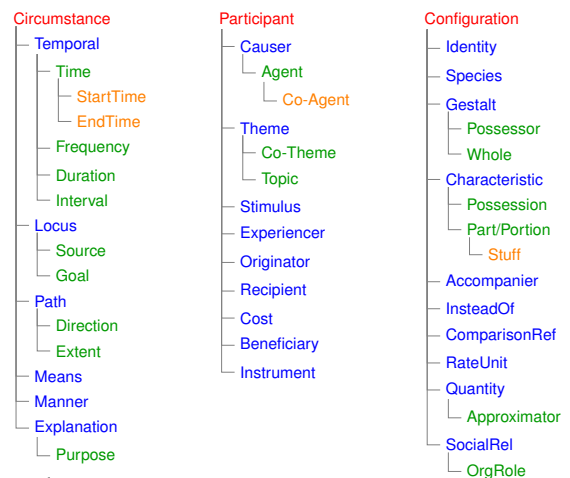
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- (3) a. Cynthia put her things **into** a box. DESTINATION ~ DESTINATION
 b. Cynthia put her things **in** a box. DESTINATION ~ LOCATION

Additionally, construal analysis provides a cleaner approach to representing metaphorical usages such as the fictive motion (Talmy 1996) exemplified in (4) by allowing the representation of both the static nature of the actual scene (scene role) and the dynamic construal effected by the language (function). It also provides a means by which we can handle semantic fields that presents a fertile ground for alternating preposition construals such as the professional relationships, exemplified in (5); and a way of handling instances like example (6), where experiencers that are construed as recipients of feelings or emotions (via dative marking).

- (4) a. A jogger runs **through** the woods. [literal motion] PATH ~ PATH
 b. A road runs **through** the woods. [fictive motion] LOCATION ~ PATH
- (5) a. He works **for** a record label company. PROFESSIONALASPECT ~ BENEFICIARY
 b. He works **at** a record label company. PROFESSIONALASPECT ~ LOCATION
 c. He is **from** a record label company. PROFESSIONALASPECT ~ SOURCE
 d. He is **with** a record label company. PROFESSIONALASPECT ~ ACCOMPANIER
- (6) Experiencer dative:
 a. koev I-i ha-rof [Hebrew] EXPERIENCER ~ RECIPIENT
 hurts DAT-me the-head 'My head hurts.'
 b. mujh-ko garmii lag rahii hai [Hindi] EXPERIENCER ~ RECIPIENT
 I-DAT heat feel PROG PRES 'I'm feeling hot.'

Preliminary examination of corpus data in English, Korean, Hindi, and Modern Hebrew suggests that this approach will resolve some of the difficulties of annotating with the single-label scheme. Our analysis also suggests that allowing multiple token-level labels will pave the way for a simpler inventory of supersenses, because the categories using multiple inheritance can be reinterpreted as construal phenomena. Our preliminary proposal for a new hierarchy reduces supersense count to 50 (two-thirds of the original 75). A significantly smaller inventory will both ease the cognitive burden on annotators and reduce the sparsity of labels in the data, which should facilitate better statistical generalizations with limited data. Efforts to update the 55,000-word corpus of English reviews, previously annotated with the original supersense guidelines, are underway.



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