

A Lexical Resource of Stative Verbs

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Project Background

Main Focus

- Stative verbs that characterize an entity by specifying the value of one of its attributes, so-called *attribute* (or *dimensional*) verbs.

Research Questions

- How and to what extent are attributes and their values encoded by means of verbs and their arguments?
- How do languages differ with respect to the inventory and use of attribute verbs?
- How do attribute verbs arise diachronically?

Example

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|---|---|
| <i>pumpkin</i> | | Der Kürbis <i>wiegt</i> fünf Kilo. | V |
| WEIGHT | <i>5 kilos</i> | La citrouille <i>pèse</i> cinq kilos. | V |
| PRICE | <i>3 euros</i> | Der Kürbis <i>kostet</i> drei Euro. | V |
| TASTE | <i>sweet</i> | La citrouille <i>coûte</i> trois euros. | V |
| FUNCTION | <i>decoration</i> | Der Kürbis <i>schmeckt</i> süß. | V |
| FORM | <i>round</i> | La citrouille <i>a un goût</i> sucré. | N |
| ... | | Der Kürbis <i>dient</i> als Dekoration. | V |
| | | La citrouille <i>sert de décoration</i> . | V |
| | | Der Kürbis <i>ist</i> rund. | A |
| | | La citrouille <i>est</i> ronde. | A |

Properties of Attribute Verbs

- *Scalar* vs. *non-scalar* range of values
 - Der Kürbis *wiegt* fünf Kilo. (WEIGHT, scalar)
 - Der Kürbis *schmeckt* süß. (TASTE, non-scalar)
- *Inherent* (incorporated) vs. *non-inherent* value specification
 - Die Rose *duftet*. (SMELL: *pleasant*)
 - Die Rose *riecht* angenehm. (SMELL: *pleasant*)
- Existence of an *absolute* use
 - Der Kürbis *riecht*. (SMELL: *unpleasant* and/or *strong*)
 - *Der Kürbis *dient*. (FUNCTION: ...)
- *One* attribute vs. *two* attributes
 - Das Plakat befindet sich in der Schublade. (LOCATION: ...)
 - Das Plakat klebt an der Tür. (LOCATION: ... & KIND OF CONTACT: *adhesive*)
- *Primary* vs. *secondary* (derived)
 - Die Straße *führt* in die Stadt. (DIRECTION)
 - Der Weg *folgt* dem Fluss. (COURSE)
 - Der Student *begreift* schnell. (GRASP)
 - Sein Verhalten *erklärt sich* aus der Vorgeschichte. (EXPLANATION)
 - Das Messer *schneidet* gut. (CUTTING QUALITY)
- Availability of *adjectival* and *nominal* paraphrases
 - Das Angebot *gilt* bis Ende des Jahres. (VALIDITY)
 - Das Angebot *ist* bis Ende des Jahres *gültig*.
 - Das Angebot *hat Gültigkeit* bis Ende des Jahres.

Partial Hierarchy of Attribute Classes (Preliminary)

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| SENSATION/APPEARANCE | |
| SENSATION | <i>riechen, schmecken</i> |
| APPEARANCE | <i>anmuten, wirken</i> |
| LOCATION | |
| SIMPLE LOCATION | <i>sich befinden, wohnen</i> |
| “FUSED” LOCATION | <i>sitzen, kleben, hängen</i> |
| STRUCTURE | |
| FORM | <i>sich wölben</i> |
| COMPOSITION | <i>bestehen aus</i> |
| EXTENT | |
| QUANTITY/MEASURE | <i>wiegen, dauern</i> |
| PATH-RELATED | |
| PROGRESSION | <i>verlaufen, gehen</i> |
| EXTREMUM | |
| SOURCE/BEGIN | <i>anfangen, entspringen</i> |
| GOAL/END | <i>enden, münden</i> |
| ASSOCIATED | <i>zuordnen</i> |
| POSSESSOR | <i>gehören</i> |
| FUNCTION/ROLE | <i>dienen</i> |
| SEMIOTIC | |
| NAME | <i>heißen</i> |
| MEANING | <i>bedeuten</i> |
| REFERENCE | <i>sich beziehen auf</i> |

Towards a Lexical Resource

Compilation of German Attribute Verbs

- Compilation of about 2000 stative verb readings based on an exhaustive analysis of the *Duden – Deutsches Universalwörterbuch*
- Manual classification of attribute verbs with respect to their properties and database representation of the entries

Rationale of Database Design

- Flexible data representation that facilitates the redesign and extension during development
 - Collaborative development and platform-independent access
- ~> XML database & web interface

Ongoing Work

- Broadening the data basis by taking into account other dictionaries and corpus resources.
- Extending the database with respect to attribute verbs from other languages (French, English, Spanish, Korean, Japanese, Lakhota).

References

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