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H. Olbertz, K. Hengeveld and J. Sánchez García, eds.
THE STRUCTURE OF THE LEXICON IN
FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR

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312 pp.

The present volume can be ascribed to a current of resurgence of interest in the lexicon and lexical analysis which has characterised linguistic theory in the last few years. As the title suggests, the book deals with the role of the lexicon in Functional Grammar (FG henceforth), a model which the editors outline in the preface. In FG the lexicon is a fundamental component. Lexical items are treated as predicates (basic and derived predicates) and stored in the lexicon in the form of the predicate frames, which provide the following types of information:

- (i) the form and the syntactic category of the predicate,
- (ii) its quantitative valency, i.e. the number of arguments that the predicate requires,
- (iii) its qualitative valency, i.e. the semantic functions of the arguments and their selection restrictions,
- (iv) the meaning definition.

The underlying clause structure is built from the predicates. The expression rules transform the underlying structure into a clause in natural language, introducing the words that do not form part of the lexicon.

The volume is divided in five sections. The first section concentrates on the Functional Lexematic Model (FLM henceforth) and consists of five articles. The first one is a presentation of the model by Faber and Mairal, followed by three applications of it by Calañas, Felices and Fernández. In the last article of this section, Rozina discusses the semantics-syntax interplay.

The second section of this volume, which contains three articles, is devoted to predicate formation, i.e. the derivation of predicates on the basis of productive rules. Baron and Herslund deal with nominalizations in Danish, François analyses pseudo-reflective constructions in French, and Tweehuysen compares causative constructions in Dutch and Swedish.

The third and fourth parts consist of two articles each. In the third section, Butler and Corda raise the question of how to account for collocational

properties of words. The articles of the fourth part by Guerrero and Podolski focus on transitive verbs.

The last section of the book consists of three articles by García Velasco and Martín Miguel, Samuelsdorff, and Weigand and Hoppenbrouwers, which provide an insight into the relationship between the lexicon and the underlying structure of the clause.

The book explores new aspects within the framework of FG, such as the semantics-syntax connection and the enlargement or modification of Dik's predicate frames model (1978a) to account for syntactic or semantic properties of predicates. Further, the arguments are illustrated with material from a variety of languages. The book also contains the description of a new lexicological and lexicographic model of linguistic description (the FLM), providing valuable applications of it.

Starting from the assumption that the lexical component in FG should be reorganised to show the linguistic architecture of the lexicon and the codification of pragmatic and cognitive information, Faber and Mairal (1998: 3-24) present the FLM as an enriched version of the model developed by Martín Mingorance (1984, 1987a, 1987b, 1990). The construction of the model integrates three axes:

- (i) the paradigmatic axis, i.e. the structuring of the lexicon in semantic domains and subdomains based on shared meaning components following Dik's Stepwise Lexical Decomposition,
- (ii) the syntagmatic axis, i.e. the analysis of the complementation of the predicates adopting the predicate frame structure as a notational device,
- (iii) the cognitive axis, i.e. the description of the predicate conceptual schemata which codify the prototypical semantic, syntactic and pragmatic features at three levels: domain, subdomain and lexeme.

In line with this, Faber and Mairal conceive the linguistic architecture of the domains as a core lexical grammar or lexical domain grammar where a set of semantic, syntactic and pragmatic features converge. In this sense, they underline the semantics-syntax connection, which is epitomized in terms of the following iconic principle (1998: 8): "The greater the semantic coverage of a lexeme, the greater its syntactic *variations*".

As an example, the authors analyse the subdomain-level schema to think about something in order to make a decision within the domain of COGNITION.

The next three articles are specific applications of the FLM to the Spanish and English lexicon. Calañas (1998: 25-46) studies three aspects of

the lexical field of EXISTENCE in German: (1) the domain hierarchy, conditioned by phasal distinctions (inception, duration, cessation); (2) the paradigmatic organization of some subdomains; (3) the syntagmatic description of one of such subdomains (To cause sb/sth to begin to exist).

The semantic study of Felices (1998: 47-64) is more limited in scope, since he sketches the paradigmatic structure of the Spanish verbs of FEELING, focusing on the construction of definitions according to the principle of economy and the deficiencies of two Spanish dictionaries (*Diccionario de la Lengua de la Real Academia Española and Diccionario de Uso del Español*), which he illustrates through samples of the corpus: lack of innovation, moral and social prejudice, obsolescence and circularity of definitions.

In contrast, Fernández (1998: 65-84) centres upon the cognitive axis, stressing the validity of the FLM as a model of representation of knowledge. Through the etymological study of POSSESSION verbs in English, he demonstrates that:

- 1) Abstract concepts are structured in terms of more concrete experiences. For example, the notion of POSSESSION is constructed from the domains of POSITION, MOVEMENT, ACTION, EXISTENCE, PERCEPTION and MATERIAL. This reflects the role of cognitive abilities (e.g. metaphor, metonymy) in our perception and interpretation of the world.
- 2) Lexical structure reflects conceptual structure in two ways:
 - (i) the FLM provides a systematic organization of concepts and their interrelationships,
 - (ii) the archilexeme (the nuclear word of the domain) can be seen as the central member of the category represented by the lexical field. This is in consonance with the idea of categorization as a gradable category.

But the major contribution of Fernández is his claim that the semantic structure of the field of POSSESSION represents different levels of lexicalization—the archilexeme standing for the first level—and that each level shows a different kind of conceptual overlapping depending on the relevance of the more concrete domains to the conceptualization of possession.

The semantics-syntax interaction, one of the fundamentals of the FLM is the subject of the paper by Rozina (1998: 85-95). She demonstrates through examples from Russian that the ability of exercitive verbs of POSSESSION (i.e. those combining in their definition a physical component with a speech component) to take certain aspectual meanings (action in progress, intention,

unsuccessful attempt) depends on the presence of meaning components or on the arrangement of components in the definitional structure. For instance, the inability of these verbs to carry the meaning of action in progress results from the combination of the performative and physical components within their definition. This means that "the meaning definitions of predicates contain information about their grammatical properties, and the latter can be predicted on the basis of the analysis of meaning definitions" (1998: 94).

In the first article of the second section (1998: 99-116), Baron and Herslund propose an enlargement of Dik's notion of predicate frame to support verb constructions or verbonominal predicates (VNP)—combinations of a verb with a noun specifying its meaning, which would obtain through a predicate formation rule whereby the verb includes the object. They also note the features of VNP: constituents (subject, effected object and prepositional object), semantic unity contrasting with the bipartite syntactic structure.

In the next article François (1998: 117-137) suggests the application of lexically-restricted PF rules to French pseudo-reflective verbs of AFFECTION derived from transitive verbs, although he acknowledges some arguments against it (e.g. the metonymical meaning of some constructions and the development of intransitive uses in informal speech). He proposes two PF rules:

- (1) A pseudo-reflexive Process rule to explain the change in the State of Affairs designated by the predication - from an Action or causative Process to a Process.
- (2) A valency extension rule which introduces a second argument and may impose selection restrictions on it ([animate]). The application of this rule accounts for four types of pseudo-reflexive constructions.

The second section ends with Tweehuysen's paper (1998: 139-167), in which he argues for the treatment of causatives as bisentential constructions, contrasting with FG approach based on valency extension. While Dik describes causatives as derived predicates resulting from the addition of an Agent argument and the feature [+Caus] to the predicate frame and the application of three rules for subject and object assignment, Tweehuysen treats causatives as complex predicates resulting from the addition of a predicate to a basic predicate. This claim is exemplified by means of the analysis of some causative constructions in Dutch and Swedish, which leads him to postulate that some causatives should be described as passives.

The third part of the book is concerned with the inclusion of collocational properties of predicates in the predicate frame or in the meaning

definition. In this regard, Butler (1998: 171-194) suggests incorporating them to an enriched version of the predicate frame including other types of information so that the PF is a model of the native speaker's lexical competence:

- (i) relationships among senses of polysemous lexical units in terms of schematic networks;
- (ii) pragmatic information.

This argument is illustrated from English and Spanish corpora.

The assumption that collocations must be taken into account in lexical entries is also found in the next article by Corda (1998: 195-211), in which she gives proof through examples from Italian that collocations are not satisfactorily dealt with in dictionaries, where they are not distinguished from senses, since dictionaries list as independent senses those derived from the sense of some fixed collocations.

The problem of collocations is also approached from a lexicological perspective. In this light, Corda criticises FG for ignoring "the interaction between grammar and combinabilities in the lexicon" (1998: 200), and claims that syntagmatic relations can only be accounted for in a linguistic theory integrating semantics and syntax and incorporating extralinguistic knowledge to meaning definitions.

The fourth part of the volume concentrates on the relation of transitive verbs (including causative verbs) to Dik's typology of States of Affairs. Guerrero (1998: 215-232) describes the syntactic and semantic properties of prototypical transitive constructions within the framework of FG. Transitive clauses are syntactically marked by the presence of a lexical verb and two arguments. The semantic features are defined in terms of two types of parameters: (i) Aktionsart parameters, [+control] and [+change], which specify the semantic properties of predicates and terms; (ii) Seinsart parameters, [+human], [+animate] and [+concrete], which denote inherent semantic features of the terms filling argument positions.

Guerrero remarks that the absence of the parameter Control and the presence of Change block transitive patterning in Spanish and German, and in line with it, she presents a new typology of SoAs based on these parameters, which contrasts with Dik's typology, where Dynamism and Control are the basic parameters.

The issue of causative constructions is taken up again in the next article by Podolski (1998: 233-245), who examines several aspects of causative constructions in English, Estonian and Russian: the relationship between causation and transitivity, the potential relationship between semantic and

formal derivation in causative verbs, and the semantic features of causative constructions:

- (i) the feature [+change], associated with the predication as a whole;
- (ii) the feature [+control], associated with the semantic function of the first argument, Agent ([+con]), or Force ([-con]);
- (iii) the feature [\pm telic] depending on the degree of successfulness of causative events.

In the last section of the book García Velasco and Martín Miguel (1998: 249-265) compare the status of the lexicon in FG and Systemic Functional Grammar, and the connection between semantics and syntax in these grammatical theories and others (Generative Theory, the proposals of Jackendoff, and Hale and Keyser within the Lexicon Project at the MIT), concluding that this relationship should be accounted for in a more systematic way.

In the next article, Samuelsdorff (1998: 267-278) invites the reader to consider the status of three word classes within the lexicon: pronouns, adpositions and adverbs. He concludes that pronouns, the majority of adpositions and a class of adverbs are grammatical items. His major contribution is the idea that adverbs should not be treated as basic predicates, since they are derived from adjectives and are semantically equivalent to them.

The final article (1998: 279-300) provides a critical review of the FG lexicon, pointing to its shortcomings —exclusion of grammatical items, inability to represent the actual words of a language, and absence of concepts. Within a functional framework, Weigand and Hoppenbrouwers present a lexical model, the dynamic lexicon, in which the linguistic acts play a central role. This lexicon covers the lexemes and the expression rules, i.e. the words and the actions on words —the devices to create new words, formulated by means of Weigand's (1994) f-structure.

This volume adds new insight to a number of lexical and syntactic issues, such as the configuration of the lexicon, the nature of lexical entries, causativity, transitivity and the semantics-syntax interface. Further, it combines theoretical orientations with descriptive analyses of lexical and syntactic problems. This book will be valuable reading for researchers and students in the domain of linguistics and for anyone interested in the development of this science.

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