

HG2002: Solutions to Tutorial 6

Participants

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1. For each of the theta-roles below, construct a sentence in any language that you speak, where an argument bearing that role occurs as subject. Use simple active sentences for this exercise.

EXPERIENCER, PATIENT, THEME, INSTRUMENT, RECIPIENT

- EXPERIENCER Kim feels happy
- PATIENT Kim fell over
- THEME Kim is tired
- INSTRUMENT The chisel smashed the bowl
- RECIPIENT Kim got the letter

2. For each of the theta-roles below, construct a sentence in any language that you speak, where an argument bearing that role occurs as object. Use simple active sentences for this exercise.

- EXPERIENCER Semantics fascinates Kim
- PATIENT Sandy healed Kim
- THEME I gave the letter to Kim
- INSTRUMENT Kim used a knife to open the letter
- RECIPIENT Sandy gave Kim

3. Design lexical theta-grids for the underlined verbs in the following sentences. For example, a theta-grid for **buy** in *Bobby bought the car for Sandy* would be:
buy ⟨AGENT, THEME, BENEFICIARY⟩

- (1) Freddie drove to the party.
- (2) Kim swatted the fly with a newspaper.
- (3) The baboon was asleep on the roof of my car.
- (4) The dog was killed by Fran.
- (5) Alex gave the doorman a tip.

- **drive** ⟨AGENT⟩
- **swat** ⟨AGENT, PATIENT, INSTRUMENT⟩
- **asleep** ⟨THEME⟩
- **killed** ⟨PATIENT, AGENT⟩
- **give** ⟨AGENT, RECIPIENT, THEME⟩

4. Explain Dowty's argument selection principles in your own words. Explain the following sets of sentences using these principles?

- (6) a. *He fears Aids*
b. *Aids frightens him.*

A: Similar properties so either can be subject/object

- (7) a. *Patricia resembles Maura.*
b. *Maura resembles Patricia.*

A: Similar properties so either can be subject/object

- (8) a. *Joan bought a sportscar from Jerry.*
b. *Jerry sold a sportscar to Joan.*

A: The same event, but different perspectives (who is doing the event), and so different characterisations

5. If you speak a classifier language, predict which classifier you would use for the following, and try to explain why:

- (9) a live dog
匹 *hiki* used for small animals

- (10) a dead dog
体 *tai* used for corpses

- (11) a robot dog (Aibo)
匹 *hiki* used by the owner, who thinks of it as an animal
式 *shiki* used by the manufacturer, who thinks of it as a set
台 *dai* used for machines

- (12) a stuffed toy dog
匹 *hiki* used by the owner, who thinks of it as an animal
つ/個 *tsu/ko* used for general things

- (13) a dog being barbecued on a spit
つ/個 *tsu/ko* used for general things

- (14) a ghost
匹, 人, 体 are all used!

- (15) an ogre
匹, 人 are both used

- (16) a letter
通 *tsuu* for correspondence generally
枚 *mai* for flat things

- (17) an email message
通 *tsuu* for correspondence generally
つ/個 *tsu/ko* used for general things

(18) a text message
つ/個 *tsu/ko* used for general things

(19) a phone call
本 *hon* for long thin things
つ/個 *tsu/ko* used for general things

6. For each of the thematic roles AGENT, PATIENT, THEME, EXPERIENCER, BENEFICIARY, INSTRUMENT/MANNER, LOCATION, GOAL, SOURCE, STIMULUS, try to find an example of its use in the text you are annotating for project one, when it is assigned to you. Email the examples you found to your tutor, in the following format:

SID: sentence

ROLE: verb-NP/PP (just enough to identify it)

For example:

11903: One day , the Lord Buddha was strolling around the edge of the lotus lake in heaven .

AGENT: stroll-Buddha (or stroll-Lord Buddha)

LOCATION: stroll-around the edge

Acknowledgments These questions are partially based on exercises from Saeed (2003).