Semantics vs. Syntax

- Clearly, using word meanings helps recall
- Some systems try to implement semantics
- But this is a core AI problem, unsolved
- Current attempts don't scale to large corpora
- All current systems are syntactic only
  - » some minor semantics (stemming)
  - » (+) language independent

Semantic Syntax

F. Kiefer

Semantic Syntax:

   Semantic Syntax Pieter Seuren,2017-10-23 This book is the first and so far only formally precise machinery converting well motivated semantic sentence representations into actual sentences of English French German and Dutch It focuses on the auxiliary and complementation systems of the languages concerned   Universal Semantic Syntax Egbert Fortuin,Hetty Geerdink-Verkoren,2019-05-09 Offers a comprehensive and accessible introduction to a novel theory of syntax which analyzes grammar from a semantic perspective   **Semantic Syntax** Pieter A. M. Seuren,1974 Aims to provide the reader with some insight into certain live issues of linguistic theory which seem crucial to our understanding of the phenomenon human language   **Semantic Structures** Ray S. Jackendoff,1992-04-22 Semantic Structures is a large scale study of conceptual structure and its lexical and syntactic expression in English that builds on the system of Conceptual Semantics described in Ray Jackendoff s earlier books Semantics and Cognition and Consciousness and the Computational Mind Jackendoff summarizes the relevant arguments in his two previous books setting out the basic parameters for the formalization of meaning and comparing his mentalistic approach with Fodor s Language of Thought hypothesis He then takes up the Problem of Meaning extending the range of semantic fields encompassed by the Conceptual Semantics formalism and the Problem of Correspondence formalizing the relation between semantic and syntactic structure Both of these problems must be fully addressed in order to develop a general theory of language that is concerned with syntax and semantics and their points of connection Few books on lexical semantics present such a comprehensive analysis of such a wide range of phenomena from a unified perspective Besides discussing the conceptual structures of hundreds of words and constructions Jackendoff extends and deepens the theory to come to grips with such crucial issues as roles and marking arguments modifiers and adjuncts binding and control and the thematic linking hierarchy   **Exploring the Syntax-Semantics Interface** Robert D. van Valin, Jr.,2005-07-07 Language is a system of communication in which grammatical structures function to express meaning in context While all languages can achieve the same basic communicative ends they each use different means to achieve them particularly in the divergent ways that syntax semantics and pragmatics interact across languages This book looks in detail at how structure meaning and communicative function interact in human languages Working within the framework of Role and Reference Grammar RRG Van Valin proposes a set of rules called the linking algorithm which relates syntactic and semantic representations to each other with discourse pragmatics playing a role in the linking Using this model he discusses the full range of grammatical phenomena including the structures of simple and complex sentences verb and argument structure voice reflexivization and extraction restrictions Clearly written and comprehensive this book will be welcomed by all those working on the interface between syntax semantics and pragmatics   Semantics and Syntax J. Miller,Jim Miller,1985-01-24 This book is concerned with the relationship between semantics and surface structure and in particular with the way in which each is mapped into the other

Jim Miller argues that semantic and syntactic structure require different representations and that semantic structure is far more complex than many analysts realise He argues further that semantic structure should be based on notions of location and movement The need for a semantic component of greater complexity is demonstrated by an examination of prepositions particles adverbs and verb prefixes and is shown to accord with cross language and historical facts The volume goes on to consider the sort of rules that are required to map semantic structures onto syntax Semantics and Syntax tackles fundamental issues and draws together many of the key concepts of traditional grammar and formal linguistics The general framework for handling syntax semantics and morphology that it outlines is perhaps a controversial one but it will be recognized as challenging and original *Language Development: Syntax and semantics* Stan A. Kuczaj,1982 First published in 1981 Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis an informa company **Arguments in Syntax and Semantics** Alexander Williams,2015-01-29 A guide to the relations between a predicate and its arguments for researchers and advanced students in linguistics Engages foundational issues in both syntax and semantics with attention to the correspondence between structure at the two levels Chapters include discussion questions and suggestions for further reading **Language at Large** Alexandra Aikhenvald,R.M.W. Dixon,2011-07-27 The volume brings together important essays on syntax and semantics by Aikhenvald and Dixon highlighting their expertise in various fields of linguistics The first part focusses on linguistic typology covering case markers used on verbs argument determined constructions unusual meanings of causatives the semantic basis for a typology word class changing derivations speech reports and semi direct speech The second part concentrates on documentation and analysis of previously undescribed languages from South America and Indigenous Australia The third part addresses a variety of issues in grammar and lexicography of English This includes pronouns with transferred reference comparative constructions features of the noun phrase and the discussion of twice The treatment of Australian Aboriginal words in dictionaries is discussed in the final chapter *Analyzing Syntax and Semantics* Virginia A. Heidinger,1984 On adoption of the materials the teacher may request the Instructor s Manual and Test Packet These aids are free and have teaching guidelines and a set of tests for each of the chapters complete with answer keys **Studies in Syntax and Semantics** F. Kiefer,2012-12-06 In the last decade a profound change has occurred in linguistic science Not only have old problems been tackled from an entirely new point of view but also quite a few new fields of linguistic research have been opened The common characteristic of the majority of the theories and methods developed recently is the search for a more adequate description of language Adequacy does not mean simply that the theory must conform to the facts It must also meet the general requirements of present day theories coherence clear cut notions rigor of presentation It has also become abundantly clear that linguistic research cannot be content with the registration and classification of linguistic phenomena In one way or another linguistics must try to explain the deep seated regularities in language which in general do not appear on the surface in some straightforward way Therefore we find the attribute deep very often in contemporary

linguistic literature Linguistic theories seek an explanation for the observed facts in terms of a system of hypotheses about the functioning of language As research proceeds these will undergo essential changes Some of them will be waived others com plemented The papers of the present volume follow these general principles of linguistic theory though they may differ from each other in the way of presentation considerably Some of the papers make use of the framework of transformational generative grammar e g Kuroda Perlmutter others approach the pertinent problem from a different angle e g Dupraz and Rouault Apresyan Mel cuk and Zolkovski **Syntax** Talmy Givón,2001 This new edition of Syntax A functional typological introduction is at many points radically revised In the previous edition 1984 the author deliberately chose to de emphasize the more formal aspects of syntactic structure in favor of a more comprehensive treatment of the semantic and pragmatic correlates of syntactic structure With hindsight the author now finds the de emphasis of the formal properties a somewhat regrettable choice since it creates the false impression that one could somehow be a functionalist without being at the same time a structuralist To redress the balance explicit treatment is given to the core formal properties of syntactic constructions such as constituency and hierarchy phrase structure grammatical relations and relational control clause union finiteness and governed constructions At the same time the cognitive and communicative underpinning of grammatical universals are further elucidated and underscored and the interplay between grammar cognition and neurology is outlined Also the relevant typological database is expanded now exploring in greater precision the bounds of syntactic diversity Lastly Syntax treats synchronic typological diversity more explicitly as the dynamic by product of diachronic development or grammaticalization In so doing a parallel is drawn between linguistic diversity and diachrony on the one hand and biological diversity and evolution on the other It is then suggested that as in biology synchronic universals of grammar are exercised and instantiated primarily as constraints on development and are thus merely the apparent by products of universal constraints on grammaticalization *Optimality Theoretic Syntax, Semantics, and Pragmatics* Géraldine Legendre,Michael T. Putnam,Henriëtte de Swart,Erin Zaroukian,2016-04-15 This book investigates the morphosyntactic semantic and pragmatic properties of language and the interactions between them from the perspective of Optimality Theory It integrates optimization processes into the formal and functional study of grammar interpreting optimization as the result of conflicting violable ranked constraints Unlike previous work on the topic this book also takes into account the question of directionality of grammar A model of grammar in which optimization processes interact bidirectionally allows both language generation the process of selecting the optimal form of a given meaning and language interpretation the process of optimal interpretation of a given form to be taken into account Chapters in this volume explore the consequences of both symmetric unidirectional and asymmetric bidirectional versions of Optimality Theory investigating the syntax semantics interface first language acquisition and sequential bilingual grammars The volume presents cutting edge research in Optimality Theoretic syntax and semantics as well as demonstrating how optimization processes as modelled in this formalism serve as a viable

approach for linguists and scholars in related fields   <u>Investigations of the Syntax-semantics-pragmatics Interface</u> Robert D. Van Valin,2008 Investigations of the Syntax Semantics Pragmatics Interface presents on going research in Role and Reference Grammar in a number of critical areas of linguistic theory verb semantics and argument structure the nature of syntactic categories and syntactic representation prosody and syntax information structure and syntax and the syntax and semantics of complex sentences In each of these areas there are important results which not only advance the development of the theory but also contribute to the broader theoretical discussion In particular there are analyses of grammatical phenomena such as transitivity in Kabardian the verb less numeral quantifier construction in Japanese and an unusual kind of complex sentence in Wari Chapakuran Brazil which not only illustrate the descriptive and explanatory power of the theory but also present interesting challenges to other approaches In addition there are papers looking at the implications and applications of Role and Reference Grammar for neurolinguistic research parsing and automated text analysis   <u>Modality in Syntax, Semantics and Pragmatics</u> Werner Abraham,2020-09-17 What do we mean when we say things like If only we knew what he was up to Clearly this is more than just a message or a question to our addressee We are expressing simultaneously that we don t know and also that we wish to know Several modes of encoding contribute to such modalities of expression word order subordinating subjunctions sentences that are subordinated but nevertheless occur autonomously and attitudinal discourse adverbs which far beyond lexical adverbials of modality allow the speaker and the listener to presuppose full agreement partial agreement under presupposed conditions or negotiation of common ground This state of the art survey proposes a new model of modality drawing on data from a variety of Germanic and Slavic languages to find out what is cross linguistically universal about modality and to argue that it is a constitutive part of human cognition

Syntactic and Semantic Variation in Copular Sentences Daniel J. Wilson,2020-07-16 This book presents a novel account of syntactic and semantic variation in copular and existential sentences in Classical Hebrew Like many languages the system of Classical Hebrew copular sentences is quite complex containing zero pronominal and verbal forms as well as eventive and inchoative semantics Approaching this subject from the framework of Distributed Morphology provides an elegant and comprehensive explanation for both the syntactic and semantic variation in these sentences This book also presents a theoretical model for analyzing copular sentences in other languages included related phenomena such as pseudo copulas It is also a demonstration of what can be gained by applying modern linguistic analyses to dead languages Citing and building off previous studies on this topic this book will be of interest to those interested in the theoretical examination of copular and existential sentences and to those interested in Classical Hebrew more specifically   **Semantic Theory** Ruth M. Kempson,1977-09-15 An introduction to the central topics of linguistic semantics and the philosophy of language assuming no special knowledge of philosophy or logic   *The Semantics of Syntax* Denis Bouchard,1995-12 During the last thirty years most linguists and philosophers have assumed that meaning can be represented symbolically and that the mental

processing of language involves the manipulation of symbols Scholars have assembled strong evidence that there must be linguistic representations at several abstract levels phonological syntactic and semantic and that those representations are related by a describable system of rules Because meaning is so complex linguists often posit an equally complex relationship between semantic and other levels of grammar The Semantics of Syntax is an elegant and powerful analysis of the relationship between syntax and semantics Noting that meaning is underdetermined by form even in simple cases Denis Bouchard argues that it is impossible to build knowledge of the world into grammar and still have a describable grammar He thus proposes simple semantic representations and simple rules to relate linguistic levels Focusing on a class of French verbs Bouchard shows how multiple senses can be accounted for by the assumption of a single abstract core meaning along with background information about how objects behave in the world He demonstrates that this move simplifies the syntax at no cost to the descriptive power of the semantics In two important final chapters he examines the consequences of his approach for standard syntactic theories   **Structure and Function: Approaches to the simplex clause** Christopher Butler,2003 Volume one of a two volume set outlining and comparing three approaches to the study of language labelled structural functionalist functional grammar FG role and reference grammar RRG and systemic functional grammar SFG   Syntax and Semantics volume 4 John P. Kimball,2019-12-16 Preliminary Material John P Kimball Ambiguity Tests and How to Fail Them Arnold M Zwicky and Jerrold M Sadock Some Universals for Quantifier Scope Georgette Ioup Cause and Control On the Semantics of Interpersonal Manipulation Talmy Giv n On Assertive Predicates Joan B Hooper Verbs of Hedging Per Lysv g Predictive Analysis and Over the Top Parsing John P Kimball Semantics and Syntax of Motion Leonard Talmy Bully for Us John Grinder and Suzette Haden Elgin Small Clauses in English Edwin S Williams Subject Index John P Kimball

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