

HG2002: 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

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, PATIENT, THEME, INSTRUMENT, RECIPIENT

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.*

4. Explain Dowty's argument selection principles in your own words. What problems do the following sets of sentences pose for these principles?

- (6) a. *He fears Aids*
b. *Aids frightens him.*
- (7) a. *Patricia resembles Maura.*
b. *Maura resembles Patricia.*
- (8) a. *Joan bought a sportscar from Jerry.*
b. *Jerry sold a sportscar to Joan.*

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
- (10) a dead dog
- (11) a robot dog (Aibo)
- (12) a stuffed toy dog
- (13) a dog being barbecued on a spit
- (14) a ghost
- (15) an ogre
- (16) a letter
- (17) an email message
- (18) a text message
- (19) a phone call

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. 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).