Who Moved My Argument? Identifying Verbal Alternations

132-1-0402

A single verb may appear in various syntactic constructions; some of the variations result from syntactic movement while others are argued to be lexically determined, being the outcome of verbal alternations. In this course, by investigating closely several available constructions for specific group of verbs (e.g., causative/ stative/ locative verbs), we will identify the syntactic, semantic and morphological properties of verbal alternations, discuss the idea of argument projection and explore the difference between arguments and adjuncts.

מי הזיז את הארגומנט שלי? כיצד לזהות תמורות פועליות

132-1-0402

לפועל יחיד יש את האפשרות להופיע במבנים תחביריים שונים. לעיתים המגוון הזה הוא תוצאה של תזוזה תחבירית אך בפעמים אחרות השינוי המבני נקבע בלקסיקון והוא התוצאה של תמורה פועלית. בקורס זה, על-ידי בחינה מדוקדקת של מבנים שונים האפשריים אצל קבוצות פעלים ספציפיות, נלמד לזהות את התכונות התחביריות, הסמנטיות והמורפולוגיות של התמורות הפועליות, נדבר על פרוייקציה (argument projection) ונחקור את ההבדלים בין צירופים שהם ארגומנטים של הפועל לכאלה שהם לא (arguments vs. adjuncts).

Pre-requisite

Introduction to Linguistics

Introduction to the Lexicon

Introduction to Syntax

Requirements and Grade

- Preparation for class, reading all required readings
- Perusall Reading Assignments and Quizzes: 20%
- Midterm assignment: 30%
- Final assignment: 50%

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Program

1. Introduction – The VP, argument-structure and the Linking Problem (UTAH)

2. Transitive/Intransitive Alternations

   - Causative/Inchoative
   - Causative/ Unergative and Internal Causation
   - Experiencer Verbs
   - Contact Verbs and the Conative Alternations
   - Approaches to Passives and Reflexives.

3. Intransitive Alternations – The role of the PP

   - Activity to Result
   - PP arguments vs. PP adjuncts
   - Sound/Light Emitting Verbs

4. Transitive Alternations

   - **Arity Unaffected**:
     - <u>Three-Place Verbs</u> – The Locative Alternation (Placing and Removal), Change of Possession Verbs (COP), Double Object Constructions (DOC) and PP movement.
     - <u>State/Cause Alternation</u> – Experiencer Verbs
   - **Arity Affected?** Instrument Subject Alternation
     - PP arguments vs. PP adjuncts in three-place constructions.
   - **Arity Affected**: State/Cause Alternation with Locative Verbs
   - Hebrew verbal morphology.

5. Conclusion and Summary

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