Course title (English): Event semantics in theory and experiments

Course title (Hebrew): סמנטיקה של אירועים בתיאוריה ובניסויים

Course number: <course_number>

Course slot (semester/s, weekday/s, hours): MA course, yearly, Wednesdays 12-14

Lecturer: Dr. Aviya Hacohen

Lecturer’s conference hour and contact details: Aviya@bgu.ac.il

By appointment

Course description & objectives:
This course is concerned with how events in the world are encoded in natural language. Our focus will be on the notion of event boundaries, or telicity. Telicity here is defined in terms of culmination requirements, whereby telic predicates, but not atelic ones, have an inherent culmination point which must be reached for the predicate to be true. The goal of this course is to explore this distinction, its linguistic sources, and the cognitive mechanisms that govern and license its interpretation in adult language. We will discuss existing theoretical literature on event semantics and how data from experimental psycholinguistics bear on, and further advance, the theory on the topic.

Course requirements:
- Participation – 5%
- Reading and annotations (Perusall) – 5%
- Paper presentations – 10%
- Presentation of research (15%)
- Final paper (65%)

Important!
Students must submit at least 80% of assignments and participate in at least 80% of classes. Failing to do this will result in automatic failure. Note, that 80% is merely the threshold for passing; each assignment still counts towards the final grade.

Academic honesty
You are highly encouraged to read, discuss and study together with your fellow students, both for the assignments and for the exams. However, all work that you submit in your name, must be your own original work. Plagiarism and cheating are forms of academic dishonesty and will be (potentially) rewarded with a failing grade for the entire course.

The university guidelines on academic honesty, is stated in section 4 of the following document: https://in.bgu.ac.il/acadsec/doclib2/plagiarism_eng.pdf
Topics & bibliography

Planned topics:
- Lexical Aspect vs. Grammatical aspect
- Aspectual classes
- Acquisition of telicity
- Non-culminating events
- Event maximalization

Selected bibliography:


Rappaport Hovav, Malka. 2008. Lexicalized meaning and the internal structure of events. In Susan Rothstein (ed.), *Theoretical and crosslinguistic approaches to the semantics of aspect*, 13–42. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. DOI: [http://doi.org/10.1075/la.110.03hov](http://doi.org/10.1075/la.110.03hov)


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