

CoReL Zoom Session

19 April 2022

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AGENDA

- A. Questions on PSP 1**
- B. General remarks relevant for PSP**
- C. Comments on the Responses to the Tasks**
- D. Questions, Comments, Suggestions, Disagreements, Criticisms, ...**

A. Questions on PSP 1

B. General remarks relevant for PSP

1. Phenomena and explanation
2. Pronunciation, Meaning and Syntax of linguistic expressions
3. Examples of the Representation of Meanings
4. Representations of Meaning, Pronunciation, and Syntax
5. Invariance and Variability

1. **Phenomena:** patterns illustrated by sample data.

Asymmetries/gaps that call for an **explanation**.

Explanation in terms of **representations** and **principles**.

['Principle' includes 'law', rules/ constraints/ principles.

A **requirement on explanations:** deducing (=predicting) the asymmetries in the phenomena that need to be explained from combination of:

(a) **representations** of linguistic forms, and

(b) the **statements of regularities in those representations**.

These statements are the 'principles' variously called rules, constraints, criteria, conventions, conditions ... and called 'laws' in the physical sciences.

Questions?

2. Pronunciation, Meaning, and Syntax of linguistic expressions

a. *Zeno saw Athena **cross** the street.*

b. *Zeno saw Athena **crossing** the street.*

Representation of *-ing*

Meaning: process without end point

Syntax: present participle
left sister: Verb

Pronunciation: /ɪŋ/

Questions?

3. Examples of the Representations of Meanings: Assertions and Presuppositions:

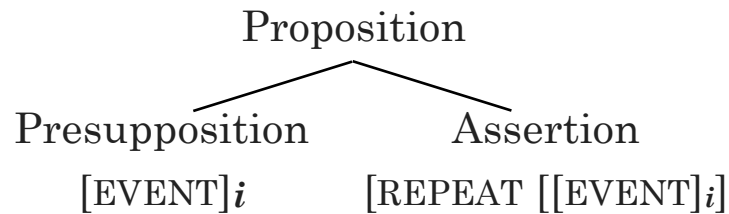
- a. *Zeno arranged the furniture.* b. *Zeno arranged the furniture **again**.*

a. *Zeno arranged the furniture.*

Meaning: Zeno [CAUSE CHANGE [END POINT: arrangement of furniture]]

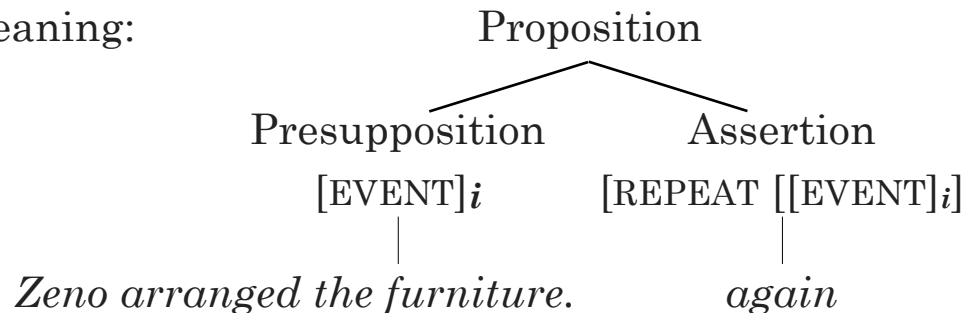
ii) *arrange*: Meaning: [X caused change [end point: Y]

iii) *again*: Meaning:



b. *Zeno arranged the furniture again.*

Meaning:

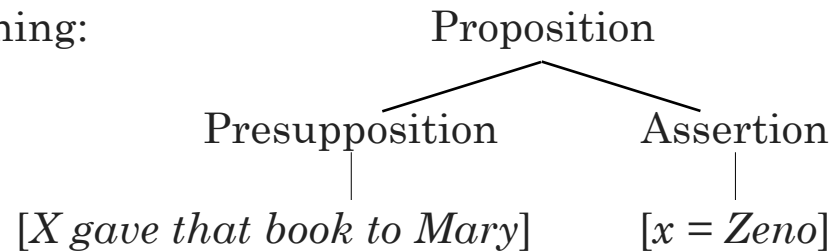


c. *Zeno **re**-arranged the furniture.* [FOR YOU TO WORK OUT THE REPRESENTATION]

- d) i. Zeno gave that book to Mary.
 ii. It was Zeno who gave that book to Mary.
 iii. It was that book that Zeno gave to Mary.
 iv. It was to Mary that Zeno gave that book to.

It was Zeno who gave that book to Mary.

Meaning:



In this structure, there is a FOCUS: Zeno.

The term FOCUS is a placeholder (convenient shorthand) for this configuration of meaning.

Questions?

4. Representations of Meaning, Pronunciation, and Syntax

Representation of the structure of meaning expressed by the grammar:

the aspects of meaning that are the input to the conceptual system and belief system, called Logical Form (LF) in Chomskian frameworks.

Representation of the morpho-phonological structure as the input to phonology, called Phonetic Form (PF) in Chomskian frameworks.

‘Phonetic Form’ is a misnomer. It is perhaps best called the Morpho-Phonological Form (MPF). Phonetic representation is the **output** of phonology, and is the input to the biological system.

What mediate LF and MPF are Syntactic Representations.

[See the representation of *-ing* in (2).]

Questions?

5. Invariance and Variability

Explanations for specific phenomena in particular languages (grammars)

vs.

Parts of those explanations that apply to all human languages (Universal Grammar)

e.g., the ACTIVE and PASSIVE constructions

- | | | | |
|-----|----|--|---------|
| (1) | a. | Zeno assassinated Athena in 1506. | Active |
| | b. | Athena was assassinated by Zeno in 1506. | Passive |
| (2) | a. | Zeno has appointed Athena as Director. | |
| | b. | Athena has been appointed as Director by Zeno. | |
| (3) | a. | Zeno will approach Athena very soon. | |
| | b. | Athena will be approached by Zeno very soon. | |

- (1) a. Zeno assassinated Athena in 1506. Active
 b. Athena was assassinated by Zeno in 1506. Passive

What (1a) and (1b) have in common:

Meaning: [X ACT UPON Y] CAUSE [CHANGE [END POINT: Y not alive]] (LF)
 Syntax: ARG-1 ARG-2

What distinguishes (1a) and (1b)

	<i>Active construction</i>		<i>Passive construction</i>	
Syntax	ARG-1	ARG-2	ARG-1	ARG-2
Syntax	SUBJ	OBJ	ADJUNCT	SUBJ

What distinguishes Active-Passive in English from Active-Passive in Indian languages:

Word order and overt case morphs.

What they have in common (invariant across languages): the Meaning - Syntax relation.

Questions?

C. Comments on the Responses to the Tasks

English: *also / and / all*

Hindi: *bhii / aur / sab*

Malayalam: *-um / ellaa*

Japanese: *-mo / ...*

Meanings: additive / exhaustive (universal quantification) / coordination

Questions?

D. Questions, Comments, Suggestions, Disagreements, Criticisms, ...