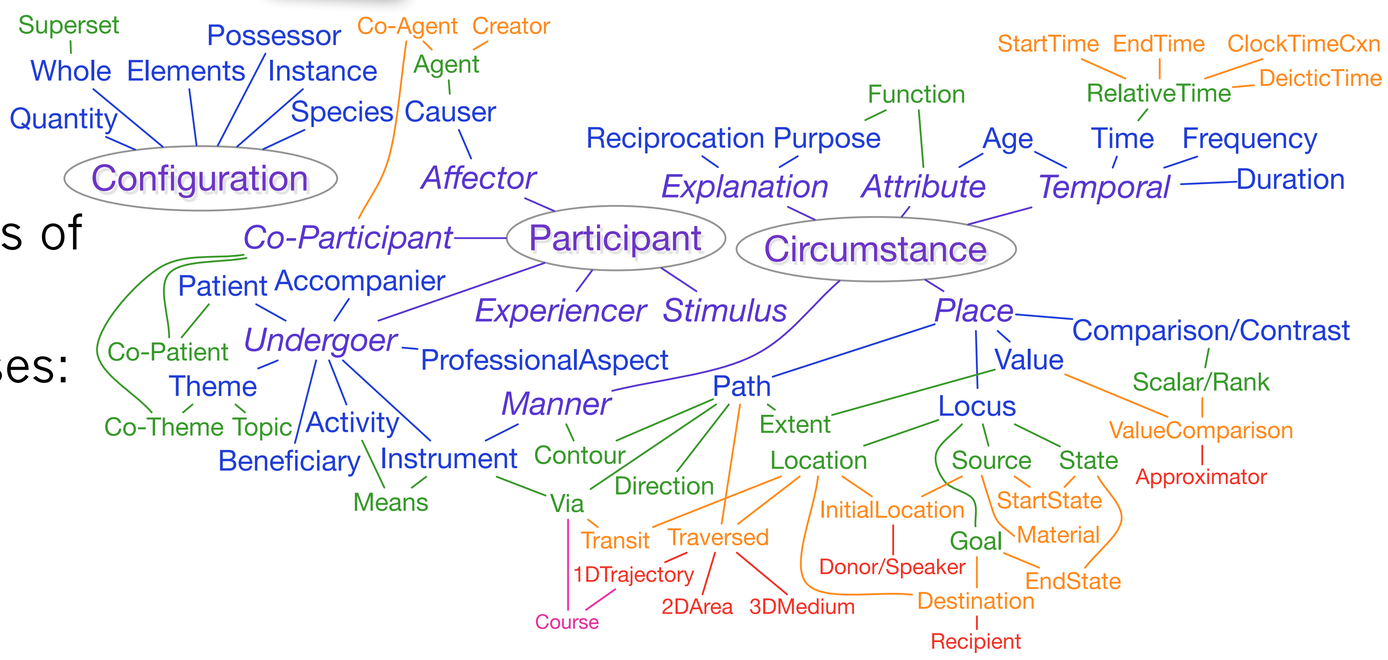
Coping with Construals in Broad-Coverage Semantic Annotation of Adpositions

Preposition supersenses: semantic functions/ thematic roles marked by English prepositions (Schneider et al., 2015, 2016)

Corpus: manually annotated 55,000-word corpus of web reviews released (Schneider et al., 2016)

Expanding to cross-lingual adposition supersenses: Hebrew, Hindi, and Korean

Principles of CxG can inform corpus annotation even without full-fledged constructional parses



Dealing with underlying assumptions:

thematic role = lexical contribution

Topic Topic

I **thought about** getting my ears pierced.

thematic role ≠ lexical contribution

Stimulus Topic

I was **scared about** getting my ears pierced.

Construal: Allows tokens to receive two labels from the hierarchy. Addresses overlap or coercion phenomena without sense proliferation.

Experiencer Recipient

scene role

Captures what scene **calls** for

function

Captures what adposition **codes** for

Koev l-i ha-rosh. *(Hebrew)*

Hurts DAT-me the-head

'My head hurts.'

Professional Aspect:

ProfAsp Beneficiary vs. Location

My dad **worked** {**for** | **at**} a record label company.

Location-as-Destination:

Destination Destination vs. Location

Cynthia **put** her things {**into** | **in**} a box.

Metaphoric Scenes:

EndState Location

The news **put** him **in** a bad mood.

Fictive Motion:

Location Path

The river **runs through** the woods.

Multiple Construals?

Beneficiary of negative emotion

Recipient of communication

Goal

Bob's boss **yelled at** him for his mistake.

Function Assignment Challenges:

?? Location

Cheolsu-nun undongcang-**ul tallyessta**. *(Korean)*

Cheolsu-NOM schoolyard-**ACC ran**

'Cheolsu ran in the schoolyard.'

?? Destination

maiN library-**ko jaa** rahii thii. *(Hindi)*

I library-**ACC go** PROG PST

'I was going to the LIBRARY.'

Stimulus ??

Listen to the violin!

Topic ??

Are you **interested in** politics?

Construction Grammar:

- Distinguish lexical semantic contribution of adposition from the role of governing predicate or scene
- Assign meaning to different stages of derivation
- Productive scene-function role pairings can be generalized via argument structure constructions

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Paper @ http://tiny.cc/pconstrual