

The slide features a light blue grid background. A blue horizontal line is positioned above the title, and a blue vertical line is on the left side. A blue circle is at the top-left corner where these lines meet. Another blue horizontal line is below the title, and a blue vertical line is on the right side. A blue circle is at the bottom-right corner where these lines meet.

Thematic Roles and Thematic Hierarchy

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Thematic roles

- ◆ Thematic roles are the roles that the referents of the arguments of a verb play in the event or in the state that the verb denotes.
- ◆ Arguments are the constituents that are required for a sentence to be grammatical (the subject, the object or the oblique of a sentence).

Thematic roles

Agent (動作主)

The person that intends to instigate and control the event a verb denotes.

Presenter(授与者)

The person or thing that gives something to somebody (+ animate).

Beneficiary(受益者)

The person that receives benefit from the event a verb denotes.

Thematic roles

Recipient (受領者)

The person who receives something as a result of the event a verb denotes.

Experiencer (経験者)

The person who has the feeling or cognition that a verb represents.

Thematic roles (動詞をモノの移動と考えたとき)

Source

the starting point of the entity from which the entity moves.

Goal

the goal of an entity which moves in the event.

Thematic roles

Theme

The person or thing that changes or moves as a result of the event a verb denotes.

Patient

The person who is affected as a result of the event a verb denotes.

Thematic roles

Instrument

The thing that is used for the activity a verb denotes.

Locative

The place where the event a verb denotes takes place, or the place where the theme is.

Thematic roles

Result

The thing that is produced as a result of the the event a verb denotes; a subclass of theme

Range

The range where the event a verb denotes takes place.

Thematic roles

Conative

The person or thing that accompanies to the event a verb denotes.

Dative

The center of the state that a stative verb expresses.

Argument structure

The structure that represents the thematic roles that a verb has.

Argument structure is characterized as the *interface level* between the lexical semantics of a verb and its syntax.

Types of argument structure

Active verbs : the subject maps onto agent.

e.g.)

David built a temple.

build <agent, theme/result>

Saint George killed a dragon.

kill <agent, patient>

A soldier ran about 40 km.

run <agent, range>

Types of argument structure

Psych verbs : the subject maps onto experiencer.

e.g.)

I saw a cat on the table.

see <experiencer, theme> on (locative)

I heard good news from John.

hear <agent, theme> from(source)

Types of argument structure

Verbs of giving : there are several possibilities.

e.g.)

Mr. Abe gave a ring to Sarah .

give <presenter, theme, to (recipient)>

give <agent, theme, goal>

give <source, theme, goal>

Dative alternation;

The change of order between the person and the thing

Mr. Abe gave Sarah a ring.

Types of argument structure

Verbs of movement : the source, the goal, or both of them are the argument.

e.g.)

Moses came from Egypt.

come <agent, from (source) >

Vladimir arrived at Moscow.

arrive <agent, at (goal) >

I flew from Narita to Sydney.

fly <agent, from (source), to (goal) >

Types of argument structure

Stative verbs : the subject maps onto dative.

e.g.)

The farmer has a lot of donkeys.

have<dative, result>

I live in Tokyo.

live<dative, in (locative)>

I know some Russian.

know<dative, theme>

Thematic hierarchy

A priority hierarchy of which thematic role is mapped onto subject.

agent > presenter/source >
recipient/experiencer/dative > instrument >
theme/patient/goal > locative

If an argument structure has an agent, the highest role in the hierarchy, then it is mapped onto subject.

If an argument structure doesn't, then the next highest role is mapped onto subject.

Thematic hierarchy

e.g.)

open

open <agent, theme, instrument >

John opened the door with the key.

open <instrument, theme >

The key opened the door.

open <theme >

The door opened.

Lexical Mapping Theory

◆ 各々の意味役割に以下の素性をあたえる。

[- o] unobjective : agent-like

目的語にはなれない 主語になる。

[- r] unrestrictive: patient-like

主語にも目的語にもなりうる

[+ r] restrictive: 前置詞句 oblになる。

[+ o] + objective:

目的語にしかできない

LMT 例

◆ I gave a book to Tom.

give < agent, theme, to (recipient) >

-o

-r

+r

subj obj

obl_{rec}

レキシコンには

give < subj obj obl > と書かれる。

LMT

◆ I gave you a pen.

give < agent, recipient, theme >

-o -r +o

◆ You are given a pen by me.

given < recipient, theme, by (agent) >

-o +o +r

subj obj obl_{ag}

LMT

◆ *A pen was given you by me.

I gave you a pen.

give <agent, recipient, theme>

-0

-r

+0

[+0]は主語になれない。

LMT

◆ I saw a cat on the table.

see <experiencer, theme> on (locative)

-o

-r

+r

subj

obj

obl_{loc}

LMT

◆ I went to the theatre with Tom.
go <agent, to (goal)> with (conative)

-o

+r

+r

subj

obl_{go}

obl_{con}

LMT 練習問題

- ◆ Both parents cooked supper for the children.
- ◆ Both parents cooked the children supper.
- ◆ *Supper was cooked the children by both parents.
- ◆ The children were cooked supper by both parents.

練習問題解答 1

◆ Cookのargument structure

cook < agent, theme, for (beneficiary)>

[-o]

subj

[-r]

obj

[+r]

obl_{bene}

Cookのレキシコン

pred = cook < subj, obj obl >

練習問題解答 2

◆ 2重目的語をとる場合のa-structure
cook <agent, beneficiary, theme>
[-o] [-r] [+o]
subj obj obj2

レキシコンでは

pred = cook < subj obj obj2 >