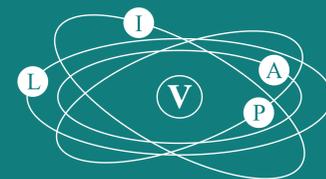




The Leipzig Valency Classes Project

Andrej Malchukov, Bernard Comrie, Martin Haspelmath,
Bradley Taylor & Iren Hartmann



DFG

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany
<http://www.eva.mpg.de/lingua/valency>

1 AIM OF THE PROJECT & INVESTIGATED LANGUAGES

- With respect to their valency properties, verbs fall into different classes in all languages.
- Though language-particular studies of valency classes are available there is a lack of cross-linguistic studies.
- The Leipzig Valency Classes Project is carrying out a large-scale cross-linguistic comparison of valency classes.
- Over 30 contributors will provide us with data on the valency properties of a selected sample of 70 verb meanings in individual, genealogically and structurally diverse languages.



2 DATABASE QUESTIONNAIRE

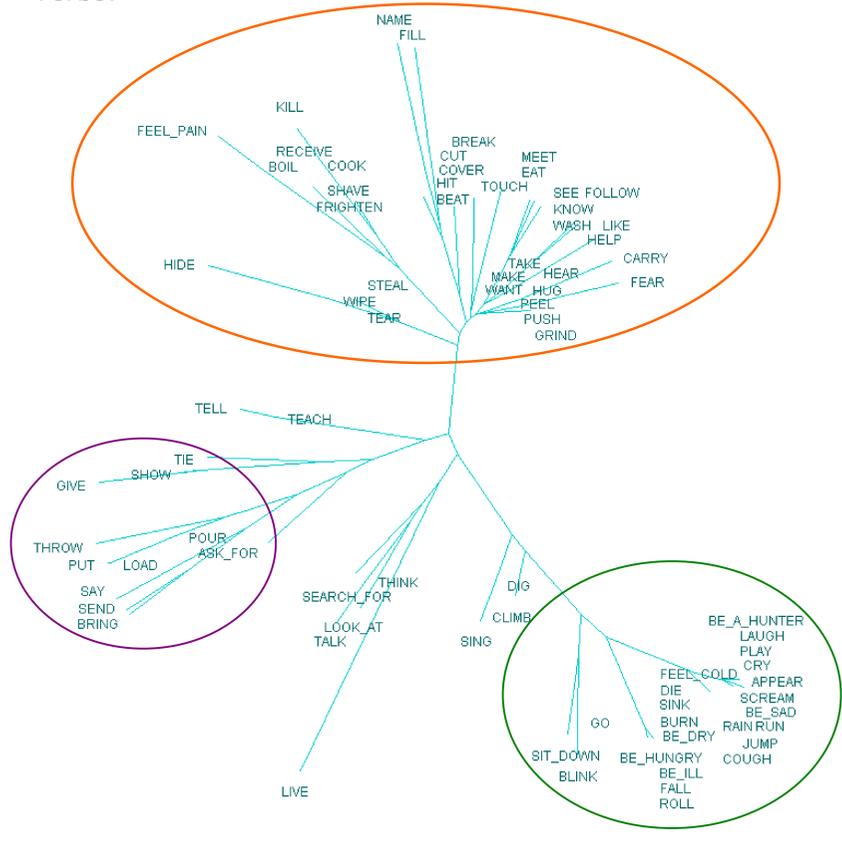
- One of the first major achievements of the project was to develop a relational database that can also serve as an electronic questionnaire.

Valency	Verbs	List	Meanings	Examples	Alternations	Languages	Options
		Back	Verbs	References	Coding frames	People	Summaries
Verb form	naruká						
Language	select go	Hoocak					
Comments							
Meanings	1	Count	Meaning label	Role frame	Coding frame	Schema	
select remove go	COVER		A covers P (with X)		new select go	A P obj[P]-sbj[A]-V	
select remove go							
Alternations	24	Count	Alternation name	(re)populate list	Alternation occurs	Comments (re: altn occurs)	Examples of alternations (first related record)
select remove go	g						go select go 3
select remove go	g		no new argument				go select go 1
select remove go	g		causative				go select go 1
select remove go	ha		ha				go select go 0
select remove go	ha		ha + kara				go select go 0
select remove go	ha		ha + ki				go select go 0
select remove go	h		h				go select go 1
select remove go	h		h + g				go select go 8
select remove go	h		h + kara				go select go 0
select remove go	h		h + ki				go select go 0
select remove go	hi		causative				go select go 0
select remove go	ho		ho				go select go 0
select remove go	ho		ho + g				go select go 0
select remove go	ho		ho + kara				go select go 0
select remove go	ho		ho + ki				go select go 0
select remove go	hst		re CAUS				go select go 0
select remove go	kara		kara				go select go 11
select remove go	ki		RFL				go select go 7
select remove go	ki		RFL				go select go 0
select remove go	ki		kara				go select go 8
select remove go	kin		causative				go select go 0
select remove go	wa		stl filter				go select go 0
select remove go							go select go 0

- This database includes the 70 verb meanings.
- The data collected within this project will be directly accessible and also comparable.
- The database includes an automatic completeness check, so that contributors can instantly see where data is still missing.
- In the "Verbs" layout of the database (see screenshot above) not only the "basic" coding frame but also information about the occurrence of all valency alternations of an individual verb as well as example sentences can be recorded.

3 FIRST RESULTS

- The following graph clusters verbs according to their basic coding frames (= basic valency frame).
- Represented in this graph are 9 languages: English, Hindi, Hoocak, Korean, Russian, Even, Sri Lanka Malay, Jakarta Indonesian and Yaqui.
- A first observation is that three rough verb clusters appear: 2 participant verbs, 1 participant verbs and 3 participant verbs.



4 PLANNED OUTCOMES

There are several planned outcomes of this project:

- Comparable sets of cross-linguistic data on valency classes
- A comparative Handbook on Valency Classes (edited volume with 30+ chapters describing valency classes in individual languages)
- The Typological Database (online publication with 35+ comparable datasets for different languages)

REFERENCES

Apresjan, Jurij D. 1967. *Èksperimental'noe issledovanie russkogo glagola*. Moskva: Nauka.

Levin, Beth. 1993. *English Verb Classes and Alternations*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Malchukov, Andrej, Martin Haspelmath, and Bernard Comrie. 2010. Ditransitive constructions: a typological overview. In Malchukov, A., M. Haspelmath, and B. Comrie (eds.). *Studies in Ditransitive constructions. A comparative handbook*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.