Linking
The Geometry of Argument Structure

Linking – how semantic arguments map to the syntax – is one of the challenges for theories of the syntax-semantics interface. In this new approach, Janet Randall explores the hypothesis that the positions of syntactic arguments are strictly determined by lexical argument geometry. Yielding novel – if sometimes surprising – conclusions, her Isomorphic Linking Hypothesis establishes the linking patterns of a wide range of verbs and, with those results, shows how to reason “backwards” from how a given verb’s arguments link to what its lexical representation must be. Along the way, the investigation takes on thorny lexical issues – reformulating the Theta Criterion, revisiting the multiple lexical-entry debate, eliminating “indirect” arguments and redefining unaccusativity.

Features

- Novel theory of argument linking, a redefinition of “argument” and a simplified view of argument structure
- Revised and highly constrained Theta Criterion
- A range of tests for arguments vs. adjuncts converging on new lexical structures for many verb classes
- Principle for building complex lexical entries from simple ones

From the contents


Fields of interest

Linguistics (General); Syntax; Semantics

Target groups

Research

Discount group

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