

Uncovering the Functional Structure

Small set of abstract semantic relationships/roles that hold between a verb and its arguments: *thematic roles, predicate-argument structure*

Max broke the window with the hammer. (<past break1> (agent Max1) (theme (the window1)) (instr (the hammer1)))

The hammer broke the window.

The window broke.

The window was broken by Max.

Slide Semantic Analysis 1–10

Role	Definition	Example	Realization
agent	instigator of the action	<i>John</i> broke the window.	S, <i>by</i> -pp
instr	force/tool causing event	<i>The hammer</i> broke the window.	with-pp, S
patient/ theme	thing affected	John broke <i>the window</i> .	DO, S
experiencer	person involved in perception/ state	<i>John</i> saw the clouds.	S

Slide Semantic Analysis 1–11

Role	Definition	Example	Realization
destination	final location	I walked <i>to Upson</i> .	<i>to</i> -pp, <i>into</i> -pp
from-loc	original location	I walked <i>from Bard</i> to Upson.	<i>from</i> -pp, <i>out of</i>
path	path over which something travels	I walked <i>along the ridge</i> .	<i>along</i> -pp, <i>across</i> -pp
recipient	final possessor	I gave <i>John</i> the book.	IO, <i>to</i> -pp

Slide Semantic Analysis 1–12

Difficulties in Determining Functional Form

I paid Mildred \$20 for the sweater.

I bought the sweater from Mildred for \$20.

Lynn became sick.

I ate the spaghetti with a fork.

I ate the spaghetti with John.

I ate the spaghetti with sauce.

I ate the spaghetti with glee.

The man killed the cat.

The man killed in the car accident was drunk.

Slide Semantic Analysis 1–13

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The hammer broke the window. (<past break1> (INSTR (THE hammer1)) (THEME (THE window1)))

The window broke. (<past break1> (THEME (THE window1)))

Slide Semantic Analysis 2–4