Lexical templates for the Spanish verbs of feeling: A further elaboration of RRG logical structures

Rocío Jiménez-Briones. Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain)

The study of the lexico-semantic properties of verbs and their relation with syntax has long been common ground for projectionist and constructionist theories. In our view, neither has been able to provide a thorough explanation of the nature of lexicon, grammar and their relationship. This paper looks at the way the Lexical Constructional Model (LCM; Ruiz de Mendoza & Mairal, 2006; Mairal & Ruiz de Mendoza 2007) and its notion of lexical template could become the meeting point for both paradigms.

The LCM is a proposal for lexical representation and syntax-semantics interface that is being developed within the framework of Role and Reference Grammar (RRG; Van Valin, 2005) and that shows full compatibility with other functional and/or cognitive approaches to language, such as Construction Grammar (CxG; Goldberg, 1995).

Lexical templates are enhanced representations that in just one format unify the semantic and syntactic properties that hold within a verbal class. Unlike RRG logical structures, LCM templates codify both grammatically salient features (i.e. external variables) and semantic and pragmatic parameters (i.e. internal variables). However, unlike CxG semantic frames, templates employ a metalanguage based on semantic primitives (Wierzbicka, 1996), lexical functions (Mel'cuk, 1988) and the RRG *Aktionsart* distinctions. In this paper we illustrate how the lexico-semantic and the syntactic components of a LCM template turn out to be crucial for a fine-grained description of the domain of feeling in Spanish. Below is a representative sample of the organization of templates in the Spanish subdomain of *anger* verbs:

Causar enfado (to cause anger)	
[SYMPT (FEELING_TYPE: enfado)$_2$] [[(**do'** (x, ∅)] CAUSE [**feel'** (y, [**pred'**])] (x,y)]	**enfadar:** causar en alguien un estado de enfado ("anger: to cause somebody a state of anger")
<fml>[INVOLVCAUS$_1$SYMPT(FEELING_TYPE: enojo)$_2$ & [enfadar]]	**enojar:** **enfadar** a alguien, causándole enojo [Fml.] ("anger: to cause sb anger")
<infml> [BECAUSE SYMPT(FEELING_TYPE: mimo)$_2$ & (MANNER_TYPE: suave) & [enfadar]]	**enfurruñar:** **enfadar** a alguien, suavemente o por mimo [Infml.] ("to cause sb to sulk: to anger sb gently or because of too much care")
[INVOLVCAUS$_1$SYMPT(FEELING_TYPE: inquietud)$_2$ & (MANNER_TYPE: ligero) & [enfadar]]	**molestar:** **enfadar** a alguien ligeramente, causándole inquietud del ánimo ("annoy: to anger sb a little, causing them to feel restless")
[PURPCAUS$_1$SYMPT(FEELING_TYPE: enfado)$_2$ & PLUSCONT (time) & [molestar]]	**pinchar: molestar** a alguien repetidamente con la intención de que se **enfade** ("needle: to annoy sb repeatedly so that they get angry")

References

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