

Preverbal fields in Hungarian infinitival complements

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The core topic of this talk is the analysis of the preverbal field in infinitival clausal complements in Hungarian, a challenging language for formal and computational linguistic applications given its flexible word order and discourse configurational type (É. Kiss, 1995). In Hungarian, structural positions are not driven by grammatical functions, but rather by discourse-semantic functions such as topic and focus.

The analysis of Hungarian infinitival clauses faces a list of interesting issues, regardless of the given framework (see e.g. Koopman & Szabolcsi, 2000; Szécsényi, 2009). In the analysis we need to capture the fact, that the embedded infinitival clause has its own verbal fields and the arguments of the different fields of the matrix verb and the embedded infinitival can be mixed. We will discuss challenging phenomena, such as: the verbal fields of infinitival clauses, scrambling of the arguments in the different verbal fields, stress avoiding vs. stress bearing control verbs and verbal modifier climbing, verb-object agreement between the matrix verb and the object of the embedded verb and infinitival clauses with nominative subject.

In my talk I propose an analysis in Lexicalized Tree-Adjoining Grammar [LTAG] (Joshi & Schabes, 1997) with an extension to the representation of information structure, the driving device for sentence articulation. The elementary trees, reflecting the possible sentence structures are generated by the meta-grammar, using the eXtensible MetaGrammar tool [XMG] (Crabbé et al. 2013).

References

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