

Cliff Goddard

(University of New England, Australia &
MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig)

Manner, result and Aktionsart in English physical activity verbs (NSM approach)

NSM is a decompositional approach to lexical and grammatical semantics based on reductive paraphrase in natural language. It uses a small defining vocabulary composed of 63 indefinable semantic primes and a larger number of non-primitive but still relatively simple lexical meanings, known as 'semantic molecules'.

This presentation explores the interplay of components of manner, result and Aktionsart (lexical aspect) in imperfective and perfective uses of English physical activity verbs, such as 'walk', 'eat', and 'cut'. The basic problem is that the details of manner semantics must be described in an imperfective (activity-in-progress) frame but imperfective uses of such verbs do not imply an actual result, only an intended and potential result. In perfective uses, on the other hand, there is an actual result while the manner components are in some sense backgrounded and susceptible to extended uses.

The talk proposes a way in which these phenomena can be represented by a systematic relationship between pairs of semantic templates.

Donnerstag, 10. Juni 2010

15:15 Uhr

Raum H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15

Alle Interessenten sind recht herzlich eingeladen.