

Analysing and describing the influence of verbal aspect on verb patterns: how much co-text do we need?

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The concept of a word having different patterns of meaning is useful to create a comprehensive account of a verb's various senses (cf. Sinclair 2004). A systematic treatment of aspectual factors and their influence on verb patterns especially from that viewpoint is still to be done. Here, a fundamental issue is where to locate relevant factors: beyond the verb constellation, what is the role of the wider co-text?

To gain first insights into aspect at discourse level, patterns from Italian and English verbs are extracted from corpora using concordance and collocation analysis. A second, aspect-focused analysis of verbs and their immediate surroundings is carried out, aiming at adding verb senses, patterns, additional information or restrictions to the original analysis. As a last step, the view is extended to a clause, sentence and paragraph level.

The objective is to show which elements of the co-text are relevant and how they influence verb patterns. Ultimately, this will help develop a method of aspect pattern extraction which is as automatic as possible to contribute to displaying comprehensive information on verbs as part of a learner's dictionary (on the dictionary cf. DiMuccio-Failla & Giacomini 2017, Giacomini & DiMuccio-Failla 2019).

References

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