

LINKING ROMANCE

The central idea of this workshop is to have different talks on the same topic in a more restricted sense than at normal workshops. Thus, we hope to be able to join the advantages of different perspectives and come to an understanding of the phenomena that goes beyond the restricted pictures of single theories. If it works out well, we would like to start an international network of research in comparative syntax of Romance languages. The organization of this network will consist in puzzles to be solved at workshops. We would like to start over with some phenomena that look trivial at a first glance, but soon show some pretty deep gaps in comparative syntax of Romance languages.

THE FIRST PUZZLE

The same semantic base predicates (our *tertium comparationis*) show different syntactic forms in Romance languages. Let's compare some examples:

1. sem: hurt(arg1, arg2) (say, Louis hurt John with a knife)
 where: arg1: {vol+, caus+ motion+, percep+, ex+, poss-} (cf. Dowty 1991)
 arg2: {vol-, caus-, motion-, percep+, ex+, poss-} and arg1 ≠ arg2

esp: Luis ha herido a Juan.	it: Luigi ha ferito Giovanni.
cat: El Lluís ha ferit al Joan.	rum: Ludovic l-a rănit pe Ion
gal: O Luis mancou a Xoán.	pe: O Luis machucou o João.
fr: Louis a blessé Jean.	pb: O Luis machucou o João.

2. sem: hurt(arg1, arg2) (say, Louis fell from the roof of his house)
 where: arg1: {vol-, caus-, motion+, percep+, ex+, poss-}
 arg2: {vol-, caus-, motion+, percep+, ex+, poss-} and arg1 = arg2

esp: Luis se ha herido.	it: Luigi si è ferito.
cat: El Lluís s'ha ferit.	rum: Ludovic s-a rănit
gal: O Luis mancouse.	pe: O Luis machucou-se.
fr: Louis s'est blessé.	pb: O Luis machucou.

3. sem: hurt(arg1, arg2) (say, Louis hurt himself preparing sushi)
 where: arg1: {vol-, caus+, motion+, percep+, ex+, poss-}
 arg2: {vol-, caus+, motion+, percep+, ex+, poss-} and arg1 = arg2

esp: Luis se ha herido.	it: Luigi si è ferito.
cat: El Lluís s'ha ferit.	rum: Ludovic s-a rănit
gal: O Luis mancouse	pe: O Luis machucou-se.
fr: Louis s'est blessé.	pb: O Luis se machucou.

4. sem: save(arg1, arg2) (say, John has saved the file)
 where: arg1: {vol+, caus+, motion+, percep+, ex+, poss+}
 arg2: {vol-, caus-, motion-, percep-, ex-, poss-} and arg1 ≠ arg2

esp: Luis ha guardado el archivo.	it: Luigi a salvato l'archivio.
cat: El Lluís ha memorizat l'arxiu.	rum: Ludovic a salvat fișierul/ un document din fișier
gal: (O) Luís gardou o ficheiro.	pe: Luis salvou o ficheiro.
fr: Louis a sauvegardé les données.	pb: Luis salvou o arquivo.

5. sem: save(arg1, arg2) (say, somebody and I don't care who has saved the file)
 where: (arg1: {vol+, caus+, motion+, percep+, ex+, poss+})
 arg2: {vol-, caus-, motion-, percep-, ex-, poss-} and arg1 ≠ arg2

esp: El archivo se ha guardado rápidamente?	it: L'archivio è stato salvato velocemente.
cat: L'arxiu s'ha memorizat ràpidament.	rum: ??Fișierul s-a salvat repede/fișierul a fost salvat repede/s-a lasat salvat repede.
gal: O ficheiro gardouse rapidamente	pe: O ficheiro salvou-se rápido.
fr: Les données étaient vite sauvegardées.	pb: O arquivo salvou rápido.

We consider these examples to show some core properties of the grammars of the individual languages. Nevertheless, while we have many theories describing the individual possibilities, we still do not know why the romance languages are so different with respect to these phenomena. We invite you to provide a principled explanation for these differences. You are free to choose your theoretical framework, including handmade ones, as well as to bring additional related evidence about the syntactic configurations of the languages involved.