Kimian and Davidsonian States Revisited
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1 Kimian and Davidsonian Statives

Kimian states are property exemplifications at a time. They are not perceptible, and they cannot be modified by event-related adverbials (Maienborn (2008)). Davidsonian eventualities are full-blown eventualities, allowing for all of those constructions.

2 Decompositional Analysis for Kimian Statives

Kimian Statives do not contain the aspectual operators DO and BECOME (stative readings of object-experiencer verbs and many other verb types).

(1) Daß die Irmi im Lotto gewonnen hat, ärgert den Poldi. ‘It annoys Poldi that Irmi has won in the lottery.’
\[\lambda s \text{CAUSE}(\text{Irmi-wins-in-lottery}, \text{ANNOYED}(\text{Poldi}))(s)\]

Eventive verbs and Davidsonian statives contain DO, BECOME or both operators within their lexical-semantic structure (eg. eventive readings of object-experiencer verbs).

(2) Die Irmi ärgert den Poldi. ‘Irmi is annoying Poldi.’
\[\lambda s \text{DO}(\text{Irmi}, \text{CAUSE}(\text{Irmi}, \text{BECOME(ANNOYED}(\text{Poldi}))))(s)\]

→ Davidsonian events are derived from Kimian states by the insertion of the aspectual operators DO and BECOME (cf. Dowty (1979); Rothmayr (2009)).

3 Questions about Davidsonian Statives

Maienborn (2008) identifies a class of "stative" verbs that display non-Kimian properties (wait, sleep, gleam, ...).

→ Do Davidsonian statives refer to a distinct type of eventualities between Kimian states and Davidsonian events?

→ Do eventualities form discrete classes or fuzzy categories?

4 Verbs of position/body posture allow for manner adverbials

Verbs of position

(3) Der Pflock steckt gerade / schief in der Erde. ‘The picket is straight / bent in the ground.’

Verbs of body posture

(4) Der Frosch hockt verzweifelt / mit angezogenen Beinen im Tümpel. ‘The frog is desperately crouching in the pond with bent legs.’

Locatives with verbs of position and body posture are never adverbials but fill an argument slot directly.

(5) Verbs of body posture
\[(\lambda x).x \lambda x. [\text{DO}(x, \text{POS-MOD}(x)) \& \text{P}(o)](s)(x)(P)\]

5 Verbs of internal causation are instrumental alternation verbs

Maienborn (2008) shows that verbs of internal causation allow for manner adverbials.

(6) Die Perlen glänzen matt / rötlich / feucht. ‘The pearls gleam dully / reddishly / moistly.’

The availability of the instrumental alternation is limited by world knowledge.

Verbs of sound emission

(7) Bert quietschte mit der Gummiente. – Die Gummiente quietschte. ‘Bert squealed with the rubber duck. – The rubber duck squealed.’

(8) *Bert quietschte mit der Ente, die auf der Wiese saß. ‘Bert squealed with the duck that was sitting on the meadow.’

Verbs of light emission

(9) *Die Irmi schimmerte mit dem Metall im Mondlicht. – Das Metall schimmerte im Mondlicht. ‘Irmi gleamed with the metal in the moonlight. – The metal gleamed in the moonlight.’

Verbs of substance emission

(10) *Die Irmi blubberte mit dem Wasser. – Das Wasser blubberte. ‘Irmi bubbled with the water. – The water bubbled.’

Verbs of internal causation are derived from activity verbs, the instrument occupying the subject position (licensed by the operator DO).

(11) DO(rubber duck, (SQUEAL(rubber duck)))

6 Conclusion

• Davidsonian statives refer to eventive Davidsonian eventualities
• They allow for event-related modifiers.
• Their lexical-semantic structure contains DO.
• Eventualities form discrete classes with well-defined demarcations.

References

