

Report Short-Term Scientific Mission

COST Action IS1312: Structuring Discourse in Multilingual Europe (TextLink)

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STSM title: **DRDs as event-structuring devices: implications for categorisation and annotation interoperability**

The main objective behind the STSM was to investigate the role of DRDs in event conceptualisation. Taking Cognitive Linguistics as a general theoretical framework, the constructs of *conceptualisation* and *event* were examined with the use of quantitative methods from corpus linguistics and experimental procedures.

The hypothesis to be tested was that DRDs can serve as significant, though oftentimes partly implicit, instructions guiding the conceptualiser, and therefore having the potential to shift meanings across a range of dimensions like emotions. We therefore aimed to examine to what extent conventionally analogous Spanish-Polish DRDs – as attested by naturally-occurring corpus data – are functionally aligned in different meaning construction contexts.

To that end, we conducted activities that can be outlined in the following stages. First, we discussed the soundness and expected productivity of a methodology integrating corpus tools and experimental methods, which made it possible to fine-tune the research design. Then, as a result of quantitative analyses based on Spanish and Polish corpora, we identified a sample set of conventionalised (Langacker 2008, Schmid forthcoming) DRDs that function as viable interlingual equivalents in event-structuring across meaning construction contexts. As a next step, from that set we selected DRDs that alternately profile, or perspectivise, the temporality of event structure. These DRDs were used to prepare a bilingual (Spanish and Polish) questionnaire with linguistically-expressed event scenarios to look into event conceptualisation as reflected in subjects' judgements. Our study comprised two conditions with the DRDs as independent variables. The dependent variables included different parameters of event conceptualisation such as emotions or morality. During the STSM the Spanish version was administered at the University of Valencia with a total of 70 native speakers of Spanish completing the questionnaire. We are now in the process of analysing

the data from Spanish subjects and the findings will then be related to the results from the Polish version of the stimuli.

On the whole, the results of the STSM are expected to shed light on the links between some DRDs and event structure as well as the problem of variable structuring of conceptual material through linguistic expressions. This, in consequence, can inform the categorisation of DRDs and annotation interoperability which are among the Action's main foci.

References

- Langacker, R. W. 2008. *Cognitive Grammar: A Basic Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Schmid, H-J. (forthcoming). A blueprint of the Entrenchment-and-Conventionalization Model. *Yearbook of the German Cognitive Linguistics Association*.