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Title: The semantics of derivational morphology: A frame-based approach

Abstract:

In this talk, we focus on the treatment of morphology within Frame Semantics. In particular, we will tackle the following questions:

- Which kinds of interpretation are principally possible given the meaning of the base and of the affix?
- Is there a restricted set of semantic mechanisms that can account for derivational readings in a principled way?

First, we will present research on derivational processes that alter the reference of the base (e.g. reference shifting */-ment/* in English), and on processes that manipulate the semantic structure of the base by altering the attribute values of the frame referent (i.e. cases of stereotype negation). Second, we will present computational research that deals with a central problem of derivational morphology, that is, the polysemy of derivational processes, using XMG and Distributional Semantics as analytical tools. The computational implementation of our semantic models allows one to test their validity and productivity.