Glossary

Additive connective: connective indicating a discourse relation of addition, in which two segments are linked by a logical conjunction without a relation of implication between them.

Alternative signal: linguistic indication of a discourse relation other than a connective, such as a verbal tense, a semantic relation between lexical items or a punctuation mark.

Ambiguous connective: connective that can be used to convey different discourse relations depending on context.

Asyndetic relation: discourse relation that is not marked by an explicit linguistic marker.

Bottom-up approach: methodological approach, mainly in corpus linguistics, that starts from the observation of the linguistic data to construct or confirm a theoretical model.

Causal connective: connective used to indicate a discourse relation of causality, that is a relation involving a logical implication between the two related segments.

Clause-combining: different ways in which simple clauses may be combined syntactically to form complex clauses, such as coordination and subordination.

Cognitive impairment: difficulties affecting the ability to think, learn and remember information, typically impacting memory, language and judgement.

Cognitive primitive: used in the CCR framework to designate the meaning components of discourse relations, including basic operation, order of the segments, source of coherence and polarity.

Coherence: cognitive notion designating the meaning conveyed by a discourse, both at a local level by adequately connected sentences and at a global level.

Cohesion: linguistic notion designating the linguistic features used to link sentences together within a discourse such as anaphora, verbal tenses and discourse connectives.

Computational linguistics: linguistic approach applying computer science to the analysis of written and spoken language.

Conceptual meaning: in lexical semantics, conceptual meaning refers to the literal encoded meaning of a word.

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Concessive connective: connective used to indicate a discourse relation of concession, that is a counterfactual relation, indicating that the situation expressed in the main clause is contrary to expectation.

Connective (discourse connective): explicit linguistic marker of a discourse relation between two discourse segments.

Connectivity: property of linguistic markers to express discourse relations.

Contrastive connective: connective used to indicate a discourse relation of contrast, that is a relation involving a semantic opposition between the two related segments.

Contrastive linguistics: field of linguistics dedicated to fine-grained synchronic comparisons between specific aspects of a limited number of languages.

Cooptation: operation whereby a linguistic expression at the sentence level is deployed for use at the discourse level.

Coordination: type of clause combining, whereby the two related segments are functionally and syntactically independent from one another.

Core meaning: the basic and most important meaning of a lexical item, of use mainly in the monosemic approach (see **Monosemy**).

Corpus linguistics: methodology involving the empirical analysis of a large quantity of naturally occurring digitalized data from written or spoken sources.

Corpus-based analysis: quantitative or qualitative empirical analysis of a linguistic feature based on corpus data.

Dependency relation: syntactic, semantic or functional relation between a head and its dependencies.

Diachronic linguistics: linguistic approach aiming to describe linguistic change over time.

Discourse annotation: manual or semi-automatized annotation of discourse features such as discourse relations or connectives in corpus data.

Discourse comprehension: understanding of the meaning of a spoken or written discourse, encompassing the linguistic decoding of its linguistic content and the derivation of inferences based on world knowledge.

Discourse marker: text structuring device linking the host utterance to the broader context, making explicit speaker's attitudes and speaker-hearer management strategies. Connectives are a subclass of discourse markers.

Discourse relation: nature of the logical link uniting discourse segments, such as causality, addition, consequence and concession.

Experimental pragmatics: use of experiments applied to pragmatic phenomena such as implicatures and speech acts, in order to study language processing and comprehension.

Explicit relation: discourse relation conveyed by the use of a connective.

Eye-tracking: method used to infer the position and movements of the eyes to study the cognitive processes at play during spoken language comprehension and online reading.

First language acquisition: developing ability to understand and use the language or languages that children are exposed to during their first years of life.

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Genre: a conventional way to use language in a certain domain such as newspaper articles, literary novels, online chats, etc.

Grammatical category: class of linguistic units (like nouns or verbs) or features (like number or case) that share a set of common properties regarding their use in the grammar of a language, also known as part-of-speech (POS).

Grammaticalization: diachronic process whereby lexical items become grammatical items.

Implicit relation: discourse relation not conveyed by a connective.

Individual differences: the different levels of cognitive or linguistic competence between several persons when they perform the same task.

Mode (spoken -, written -): the spoken mode refers to language use in spoken form, the written mode refers to language use in its written form.

Monosemy: methodological approach in lexical semantics according to which (most) lexical items have a single encoded core meaning.

Natural language processing (NLP): computational approach aiming at using computer science techniques to understand how language works.

Non-truth-conditionality: meaning of a linguistic expression that cannot be described in terms of truth or falsity.

Onomasiological approach: linguistic method aiming at describing meaning differences for broader categories, for example the differences and similarities between causal connectives and contrastive connectives (in contrast with semasiology).

Periphery (left and right): position at the beginning or at the end of a linguistic segment.

Polyfunctionality: refers to the fact that some connectives can be used to convey several different discourse relations depending on context.

Polysemy: methodological approach in lexical semantics according to which lexical items may encode more than on core meaning (contrasts with monosemy).

POS-tagging: (automatically) adding a grammatical category label to all tokens in a corpus.

Pragmaticalization: diachronic process whereby a lexical or grammatical item becomes a discourse item.

Procedural meaning: in lexical semantics, procedural meaning refers to non-conceptual meaning, in other words meaning that does refer to instructions on how to manipulate concepts rather than to (referential) concepts themselves.

Processing (of discourse): the mental operations enabling the decoding and understanding of language as it unfolds.

Psycholinguistics: a field combining linguistics and psychology to study the processing, representation and acquisition of language in the brain.

Recall: the amount of information remembered from a text after reading it.

Register: the degree of formality of the language used in a given genre.

Second language learning: a field of linguistics studying the acquisition of additional languages acquired after the period of first language acquisition.

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Self-paced reading: a method used to assess online reading by splitting sentences into segments and measuring the time needed to read them across experimental conditions.

Semantic path: description of the way semantic (relational) meanings (typically) evolve over time, for example temporal > causal.

Semasiological approach: methodological approach in lexical semantics aiming at describing semantic differences and similarities from specific linguistic items.

Sociolinguistics: a field of linguistics analysing the relations between language and society, such as regional, class- and gender-related differences in language use.

Subordination: syntactic dependency relation between a main clause and a subordinated clause.

Syndetic relation: relation that is expressed by a linguistic marker.

Taxonomy: hierarchical classification of concepts, such as discourse relations.

Temporal connective: connective that signals a temporal relation, either synchronous (different moments following in time) or asynchronous (at a particular time).

Top-down approach: methodological approach whereby the empirical analysis follows a preconceived theoretical model.

Usage-based linguistics: linguistic approach that considers authentic language use as it is observed in natural contexts as its object of study.

Weak-clause association: property of a linguistic element to be syntactically independent from its host clause or in a loose syntactic dependency relation.

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