

Event individuation, event delimitation, event description

Empirical and theoretical issues

Marta Donazzan and Lucia M. Tovena
Université Paris 7 - LLF

DelimitEvents
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Outline

- Our work on ATA nominalizations in a typological perspective: the **empirical issues** that arise with respect to event delimitation and identification
- The **theoretical issues** that are related to empirical facts and that are of interest for the project

Theoretical issues

If we look at the conclusion of the analysis of ATA-nouns and at the proposals emerging from the talks of the workshop, we may see that there are at least four ways in which events may be delimited and identified. Identification may be done by exploiting information conveyed by:

- ① Event participants
- ② Temporal and aspectual adverbials
- ③ Plural and pluractional marking
- ④ Classifiers and complex verbs

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① Theoretical issues

Event participants

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Plurality and plural marking

Classifiers

② Proposals for 2014

Participants

- Constraints from the **thematic object** for identifying events are complex units: e.g. one discernible object for each event (1),

(1) a. #She baked frequent cookies

b. She baked frequent batches of cookies

(Gehrke & McNally 2014)

(2) a. Ha fatto frequenti #biscotti/?inornate di biscotti

She baked frequent #cookies/?batches of cookies

b. Giolitti [...] promosse *frequenti inornate* di Senatori compiacenti alla Camera alta.

Giolitti [...] pushed through [the election of] frequent batches of compliant Senators at the upper Chamber.

- **Participant roles:** agentivity and will are relevant for defining events as complex units and culminating events (cf. Copley & Wolff t.a., Demirdache & Martin 2013)

- (3) a. Pierre l'a provoquée, mais elle ne l'a même pas remarqué
Pierre provoked her, but she didn't even realize
- b. Cette remarque l'a provoquée, #mais elle ne l'a même pas remarqué
This remark provoked her, #but she didn't even realize
(Demirdache & Martin 2013)
- (4) a. Maria ha battuto/frustato il tappeto per mezz'ora.
Maria thwacked/lashed the carpet for half an hour
- b. Il cavo si è rotto durante la notte e ha #battuto:#frustato il muro – dato colpi/dato frustate al muro fino al mattino.
The cable broke during the night and #thwacked/#whipped –gave strikes/gave lashes to the wall until morning
(Donazzan & Tovena 2014)

- Constraint on the identity of distinct events may come also from the **selectional restrictions of the predicate**, e.g. inherently plural (5) vs. non-inherently plural but potentially symmetrical predicates (6)
- (5) Marie et Pierre se sont rencontrés (#mais pas l'un avec l'autre).
- (6) a. Marie et Pierre se sont mariés (mais pas l'un avec l'autre).
b. Marie et Pierre, mes enfants, se sont mariés l'année dernière.

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Temporal and aspectual adverbials

- **Aspectual vs. iterative adverbs:** iterative adverbs like *again* contribute maximalization and help identifying one event (von Stechow, 1996; Beck, 2005), but other repetitive adverbs are sensitive to aspectual alternations, e.g. *ancora/encore* (Tovena, 1996; Donazzan, 2008)

- (7) a. John was sick again.
 b. Jean était de nouveau malade.
- (8) a. Jean était encore malade.
 b. Jean a été encore malade

- **Temporal adverbials:** *in/for*-adverbial phrases are used as a test for (a)telicity in English (9), but what about languages that have bare (non P-headed) temporal phrases (10) or languages that admit both (11)?

- (9) a. John ran for two hours/#*in* two hours
b. John ran the marathon #*for* two hours/*in* two hours
- (10) a. Women zou le liang ge xiaoshi
we walk ESP two CI hour
We walked for two hours
b. Zhangsan zhe dong fangzi gai le san nian le
Zhangsa this CI house build ASP three year MOD
(i) Zhangsan built this house in three years
(ii) It's three years since Zhangsa built this house.
- (11) a. Oggi Gianni ha corso per due ore.
b. Oggi gianni ha corso due ore.

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Plural and pluractional marking

- **Aspectual marking** of plurality: semelfactives, frequentative aspect
 - (12) a. John knocked at the door
 - b. The ice cracked/crackled
- **Morphological marking** of plurality: plural events, cf. (13a) from (Muller and Sanchez-Mendes, 2008) or internal pluractional reading (13b)?
 - (13) a. Pikom kyn naponpon João Karitiana
singe POS 3-DECL-tirer-REDUPL-NFUT João
João a tiré (plus qu'une fois) sur les singes
 - b. Zhangsan qu guo san-san bu. Mandarin
Zhangsan go-ASP walk-walk step
Zhangsan went to take a walk/to walk a bit.

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Classifiers

- Verbal classifiers

- (14) a. Mau keu jau jia cui. Kam (Gerner, 2009)

He hit me two VCI:fist

He hit me twice with his fist(s)/ He punched me twice.

- b. Zhangsan da-le wo yi bazhang Mandarin

Zhangsan hit-ASP me one VCL:palm

Zhangsan slapped me once.

- preverbs and complex predicates, cf. Bowern (2004) and Caudal's presentation
- Adverbial NP classifiers: *fois*, *coup*

- (15) a. J'ai lu une fois le poème.

b. J'ai lu un coup (#le poème).

c. J'ai lu un coup le journal (#d'aujourd'hui)

Proposals for 2014

There are at least two broad issues that are of interest for all of us and that are quite developed, at least as problematic cases, in our individual works

- ① Agentivity, volitionality and causation
 - participant roles
 - instrument classifiers
 - aspectual marking
- ② Plurality and singularity of events
 - morphological and aspectual marking
 - classifiers
 - temporal and aspectual modifiers

Proposals for 2014

Reading group schedule:

- Friday April 4th
- Friday May 23rd
- Friday June 20th

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- Zhang, N. (2002). Counting and classifying eventualities in Chinese. *Ms., ZAS Berlin*.