

Classification of the predicates of movement and their class of objects

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In order to obtain an adequate automatic treatment of natural languages (indexation, automatic or assisted translation, electronic dictionaries...), it is indispensable – apart from describing the general rules of the languages - to create and to improve electronic dictionaries. Although the electronic dictionaries are based on the lexicon, they must also contain all the semantic and syntactic properties of each word, otherwise it is impossible to eliminate the ambiguities. In the past few years, the Corpus Linguistics have achieved significant results but it seems more and more obvious that systematic and exhaustive linguistic descriptions are always necessary.

In my presentation, I would like to explain some problems occurring in the classification of the Hungarian predicates of movement. First, I have described a part of the verbs of movement according to the lexico-grammar approach (L.Varga, 1996,1999) and then I started this study following Gaston Gross methodological approach (1992,1994). This approach puts the emphasis on the semantic classification but also takes into account certain syntactic properties.

G. Gross created the model of the semantic predicates and of the class of objects by uniting the semantic approach to the lexicon-grammar approach. The minimal element in the analysis is the simple sentence which is composed of a predicative core surrounded by one or several arguments (Tesnière, Fillmore, Harris). In order to define the semantic classes of the predicates, it is necessary to define their arguments. In the examples described below the meaning of the sentences depends on the quantity and the type of the arguments. The sentence a) means *Mary runs into the room*, the b) *Mary runs* which can also mean that she does it as a sport ("race").

a) $P(x;y)$ *Mari a szobába fut.* b) $P(x)$ *Mari fut.* c) $P(x;y)$ *Mari a szobában fut.*

In Hungarian, it is also necessary to describe the morpho-syntactic properties of the arguments, in order to represent the classes of objects. For instance, in the sentences a) and c) the different suffixes indicate the argument expressing location and change the meaning of the sentence. In the sentence c) the direction and the destination of the movement is indicated, whereas it is not in the sentence a) *Mary runs in the room*.

The question is to know if it is possible to create classes of semantic predicates precise enough to give a satisfactory description of the movements.