SVCs in three-participant Events: Argument Structure and Lexical-syntactic Interface

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Overview

1. Three-place predicates - Three-participant events
2. SVCs
3. RRG: Argument Structure and Lexical-syntactic Interface
4. Summary and conclusions

Semantic categories of three-participant events
(a) Agent causes recipient to receive theme
• Verbs of Change of Possession: Give Verbs
• Verbs of Sending and Carrying: Send verbs; Bring and Take
• Verbs of Throwing: Throw verbs
(b) Agent causes theme to move to location
• Verbs of Putting: Put Verbs
(c) Agent sends theme to cause recipient to receive theme
• Verbs of Change of Possession: Verbs of Obtaining (Got Verbs)
• Verbs of Creation
(d) Agent acts to communicate information to recipient
• Verbs of Communication: Verbs of Transfer; a Message

Defining SVCs...
1. SERIAL VERB CONSTRUCTION AS A SINGLE PREDICATE
2. MONODACRALITY OF SERIAL CONSTRUCTIONS
3. PROXODIC PROPERTIES OF SERIAL VERB CONSTRUCTIONS
4. SHARED TENSE/ASPECT MOOD, MODALITY, AND POLARITY VALUE
5. SERIAL VERB CONSTRUCTION AS 'CHE EVENT'
6. SHARING ARGUMENTS IN SERIAL VERB CONSTRUCTIONS
   a. SWITCH-FUNCTION SVCS
   b. CAUSE-EFFECT SVCS
   c. COMPLEMENTATIVE EXPERIENCE SVCS
   d. SWITCH-FUNCTION CONJUNCTIVE
   e. COMPLEMENT CLAUSE SERIALIZATION
   f. CUMULATIVE SUBJECT SVCS
   g. EVENT-ARGUMENT SERIAL VERB CONSTRUCTIONS
   h. RESOLVATIVE SVCS

Examples of SVCs
(2) Skou (Donohue 2006: 390)
Ròpú ke we leng ni book 3SG.NF. take.i give 1SG
leng ni "He gave me the book"
(3) Jakob (Kroch 1993: 15)
ad ko-lêng mo ngoc-ngoi
1SG.REFL child 3SG REFLECT
sê kêu y con
"I gave the child to my child" [switch SVC]

SVCs/SVCs
- Structural continuum
  Verbal compounds > Nuclear serial verbs > Core serial verb > Clause chains > subordination clauses > Coordination clauses
  (Crowley 2002:18)

(4) Kolar (Dutton 1996: 13)
Hammer take-ss 1SG give.2SG[IMPER-SS]
"Give me the hammer"

Studies on SVCs
• West Africa (in particular the Bwa group and Atlantic Creoles)
• South East Asia (North-East and non-Mon-Khmer groups)
• America (Central, southern and northern areas)
• Oceanic (Austronesian languages, Papuan, Melanesian peoples and Australian languages)

Non-Contiguous SVCs
(5) Khmer (Jacob 1658:78)
nôk tayy sômpôp hû mõk khpom
2SG take book COME 1SG "You give me a book"
(6) Haitian Creole Language (Andrews & Manning 1999: 105)
Emil pan 6ov le bôy Mari
Emil take book REFL give Mari "Emil give the book to Mary"
(7) Moor (Dixon 1957:58)
a dikô lâgòn kô (a) Kulôga
3SG take money REFL (a) Kulôga "He brought money to Kulôga"

Table 1: Input verbs in SV strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Input verbs</th>
<th>Output verbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>take book</td>
<td>give book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>come book</td>
<td>give book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bring book</td>
<td>give book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>send book</td>
<td>give book</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contiguous SVCs

(8) Fa d’Ambu (Post 1995: 201)
Mail me dyana ho da pe-dăi
‘Mary take banana go give father’
Mary brought banana to his father’

(9) Sakao (Darie 1988: 10)
me-kə-lom
3sg take-come
‘he brought it’ (lit. he took (and) he came)

Composition and semantics of SVCs

1. ASYMMETRICAL AND SYMMETRICAL SVCs
   a. DIRECTION AND ORIENTATION
   b. ASPECT, EXTENT, AND CHANGE OF STATE
   c. SECONDARY CONCEPTUALIZATION
   d. Serialization of COMPLEMENT CLAUSE-TAKING VERBS
   e. INCREASING VALENCY AND SPECIFYING ARGUMENTS
   f. REDUCING VALENCY
   g. COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE
   h. EVENT-ARGUMENT SVCs

2. SEMANTICS OF SYMMETRICAL SVCs
   a. SEQUENCE OF ACTIONS OR CONCOMITANT ACTIONS RELATED TOGETHER
   b. CAUSE-EFFECT SVCs
   c. MAINTAIN SVCs
   d. SYNONYMOUS VERB-SERIALIZATION

Table 2 – R-type serialized P
Table 3 – T-type serialized P

R-type serialized P: examples

(10) Saramaccan (Vendstra 1996:107)
Mf mondá biff da hen
3sg send letter give 36L
‘I have sent letters to her’

(11) Thai (in Malchukov et al 2007)
khweang laokban pay bay know
throw ball go give 36L
‘(S)he threw the ball to him’

Posture verbs in SVCs

(15) Kele (Ross 2004: 304)
yu u-ro piel i-so dta-n kæw
S5:5 put plate S5:5 on P:5:3 P table
‘I put the plate on the table’

(16) Jaban (Bisang 1986: 146-147)
ko-tac amè kè-kò màsoc
1SG-put yam 3SG-loc floor
‘I put yams on the floor’

(17) Timrin
rit ve mel arrib
3PL take come water
‘they brought water’
(Okmini 1995: 213)

Table 2 – R-type serialized P

| Arg-argument, V₁-first verb, V₂-second verb, V₁₀-verbal roots, vi-10-deictic verb, T-thematic, B-recipient, B-beneficiary, L-locative |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| take | T | go | R |
| take | T | come | R |
| take | T | give | R |
| take | T | take | R |
| take | come | T (which) | x |
| sell | T | take | ? |
| sell | T | sell | ? |
| give | T | give | R |
| give | T | give | T |
| take | T | bring | ? |
| take | T | come | R |
| take | T | give | R |
| take | (T) | arrive | L? | x |
| take | I | put | L |
| throw | T | throw | L |
| throw | T | give | R |
| take | T | look | go | R |

T-type serialized P: examples

à kà láh cák ush? ha a 3sg pass take pot come give 2sg
‘He brought me the pot’

(13) Khmer (Jacob 1968: 78)
Khnom ñooy saap lueth tuu ntok 1sg take book go 2sg
‘I give you a book’

(14) Khmer (Jacob 1968: 78)
ñotk ñooy saap lueth mok khnom 1sg take book come 1sg
‘You give me a book’

Overview

1. Three-place predicates - Three-participant events
2. SVCs
3. RKG: Argument Structure and Lexical-Syntactic Interface
   Syntactic projections of SVCs in clause chains
   Semantic representations of SVCs
   RKG logical structures of predicates
   lexical decomposition of a three-place predicate
   Sentences
   Eventhood
   Interlexical semantic relations
4. Summary and conclusions

Figure 1 – The layered structure of a simple three-place predicate

Figure 2 – Nuclear SVC

Figure 3 – Core SVC

Figure 4 – Nuclear and core SVC

Figure 5 – Diagram of sentence structure
(20) Saramaccan
Mi manda bliji da hen
1sg send letter give 3sg 'I have sent letters to you'
[Weenantra1986:187]

Figure 5 - Argument-adjunct in SVC

(21) Dréngma
Breno o-i ét m-n dyi doma
Breno 3sg give-1sg him shirt
'Breno bought a shirt for him'
[Van Valin2007]

Figure 6 - Argument-adjunct in SVC 'for'

(22) Kolari
Homo mi-me da ma-mil
Hammer take 1sg give 2sg IMPER-5G OR
'Give me the hammer'
[Dutton1996:10]

Figure 7 - Clause chaining

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(a) simple predicate
(b) Complex predicate (V1-V2)

Figure 8 - RRG Assignment of MR

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(23) Haitian Creole language
Emil pan liv la bay Mari

Figure 11 - PSA: subject control

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(24) Jabé
dë ko-këng mo gë-dëng ngoc ngaloë

Figure 12 - PSA: object control

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Causation

1) each event causes each next following event
   [take + give] 'give'

2) or a subsequence of (causally related) events causes some
   following event
   [take + go] 'give'

Observations:
- iconic order
- action-purpose sequence of events (?)
- single objective event
- complex conceptual event

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(25a) Khmer (Jacob 1968: 78)
Khmôm Roay sêugphô tu nêak
1sg take book go 2sg
'Give you a book'

Figure 14 - Macro-event representation: explicit Spatial transfer object

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(25b) nêak Roay sêugphô mûk khmôm
2sg take book come 1sg
You give me a book'
CAUSED MOMENT EVENT in switch SVs

MACRO-EVENT PROPERTY (MEP) (Bohnemeyer et al. 2007)

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2. SVs

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4. Summary and conclusions

References


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Three-place predicates in SVCs: sample

1. *You make me happy.*
2. *They make you happy.*
3. *You make them happy.*

(a) Agents can cause events to have some outcome

(b) Actions can be communicated deictically to refer to

(c) *words of Communication: types of deictic and non-deictic*