

INDIVIDUAL PAPERS

Grounding frame elements identification in corpus collocational patterns

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In this paper representative corpora are seen as a fundamental tool to explore the relations between corpus data and frame elements. Emphasis is put on the analysis of collocational patterns which can be extracted through automatic procedures and on the importance of collocates and collocations as surface evidence of background conceptual structures.

It is argued that the collocates that are most characteristic for the word chosen as the node provide contextual clues to the word meaning and characteristic context. They provide the factual basis which makes it possible to investigate the frames evoked and shared by a linguistic community in different moments of their history. They make explicit hidden assumptions that underlie different readings of linguistic forms.

Collocations are therefore examined not only as a phenomenon important in linguistics in its own right but also as empirical evidence of background conceptual knowledge and for the contribution they can give to the disambiguation and description of lexical units opening new views to the configuration of culturally shared conventions and cognitive schemata.

To explore the parallels that can be identified in the collocation description on the one hand and in frame elements on the other reference is made to Firthian approach, and to Minsky's and Fillmore's studies. Conventionality, repetitiveness and shared experience are focused as common characterizing aspects. The relation between corpus data and frames elements is discussed and briefly illustrated in some case studies.

Fillmore, C.J. (1985), Frames and the semantics of understanding, *Quaderni di Semantica*, 6, 222-254.

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Minsky, M. (1974), A framework for representing knowledge, *MIT-AI Laboratory Memo 306*.

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