

The Leipzig Valency Classes Project

Andrej Malchukov, Bernard Comrie, Martin Haspelmath, Bradley Taylor & Iren Hartmann

DFG

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany http://www.eva.mpg.de/lingua/valency

1 AIM OF THE PROJECT & INVESTIGATED LANGUAGES

- With respect to their valency properties, verbs fall into different classes in all languages.
- Though language-particular studies of valency classes are available there is a lack of cross-linguistic studies.



- The Leipzig Valency Classes Project is carrying out a large-scale cross-linguistic comparison of valency classes.
- Over 30 contributors will provide us with data on the valency properties of a selected sample of 70 verb meanings in individual, genealogically and structurally diverse languages.

2 DATABASE QUESTIONNAIRE

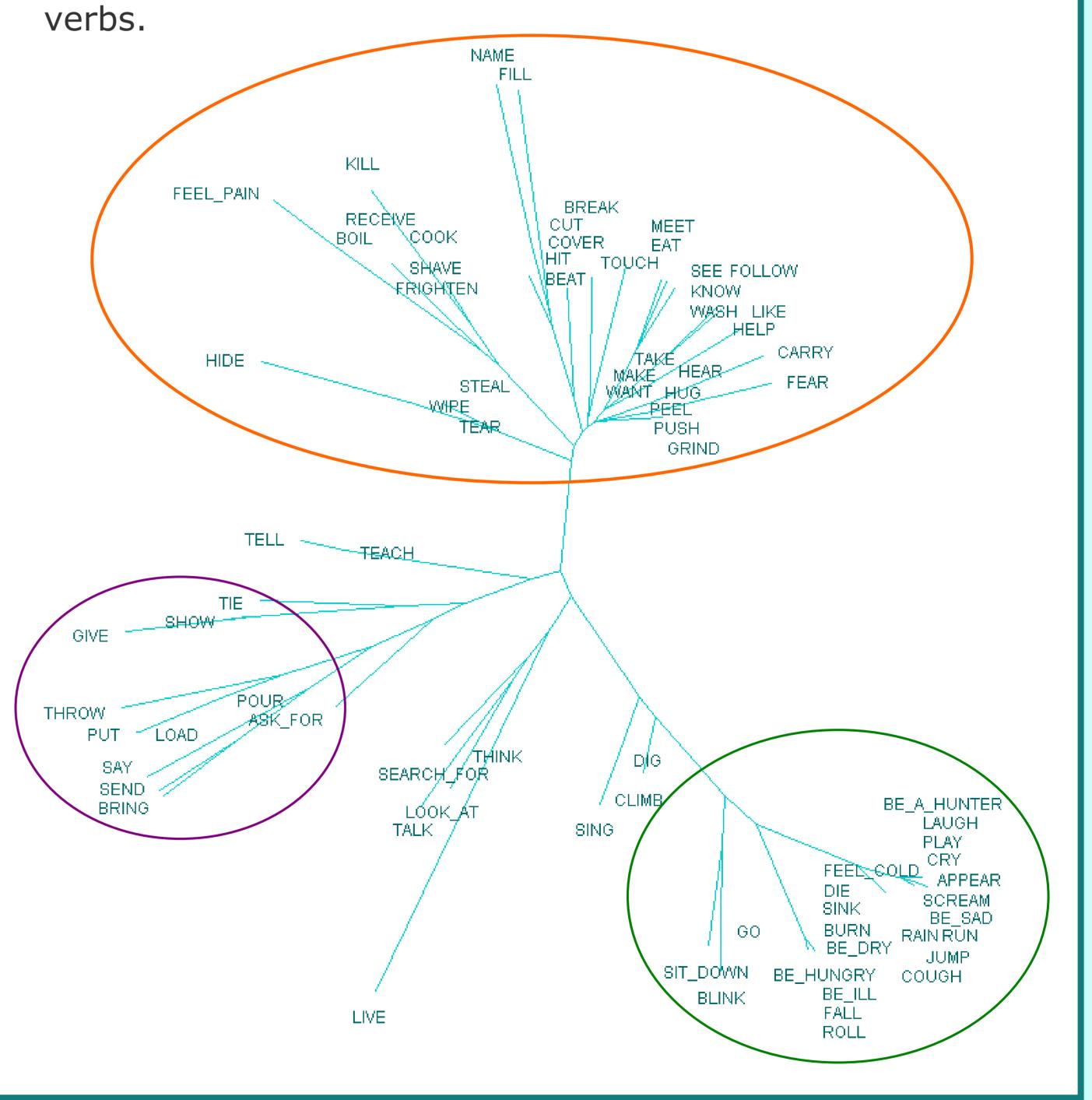
 One of the first major achievements of the project was to develop a relational database that can also serve as an electronic questionnaire.

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3 FIRST RESULTS

- The following graph clusters verbs according to their basic coding frames (= basic valency frame).
- Represented in this graph are 9 languages: English, Hindi, Hoocak, Korean, Russian, Even, Sri Lanka Malay, Jakarta Indonesian and Yaqui.
- A first observation is that three rough verb clusters appear:
 2 participant verbs, 1 participant verbs and 3 participant

- This database includes the 70 verb meanings.
- The data collected within this project will be directly accessible and also comparable.
- The database includes an automatic completeness check, so that contributors can instantly see where data is still missing.
- In the "Verbs" layout of the database (see screenshot above) not only the "basic" coding frame but also



information about the occurrence of all valency alternations of an individual verb as well as example sentences can be recorded.

4 PLANNED OUTCOMES

There are several planned outcomes of this project:

- (i) Comparable sets of cross-linguistic data on valency classes
- (ii) A comparative Handbook on Valency Classes (edited volume with 30+ chapters describing valency classes in individual languages)
- (iii) The Typological Database (online publication with 35+ comparable datasets for different languages)

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