THE VERB ARGUMENT BROWSER

ARGUMENT FRAMES IN THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL CORPUS

Bálint Sass

sass.balint@nytud.mta.hu

Language Technology Research Group, Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

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PREVIEW

- Verb Argument Browser a corpus query tool for investigating argument structure of verbs.
- original version:
 - for Hungarian
 based on the old version of the Hungarian National Corpus
 - not just arguments

 all NP and PP dependents of verbs
 subjects, objects, complements, adjuncts included
 - investigating
 verb subcategorization frames, institutionalized phrases,
 light verb constructions, idiomatic verbal expressions,
 figures of speech ...
 common property: verb + some NP/PP dependents
 - examples
- language independence



- SENTENCE MODEL
- 2 VERB PHRASE CONSTRUCTIONS AS COLLOCATIONS
- USAGE & EXAMPLES
- 4 APPLICATIONS
- 5 LANGUAGE INDEPENDENCE



- SENTENCE MODEL
- 2 VERB PHRASE CONSTRUCTIONS AS COLLOCATIONS



SENTENCE MODEL

• Basic unit: simple sentence or clause.

A lány váll-at von. the girl shoulder-ACC pull. 'The girl shrugs her shoulder.'

clause = verb + set of NP/PP dependents → verb frame

verb=von NOM=lány ACC=váll verb=shrug SUBJ=girl OBJ=shoulder

Dependent types: defined syntactically / morphologically

in English: word order, prepositions in Hungarian: case markers, postpositions



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EXAMPLES

Az emberek az időjárás-ról beszélnek. the people the weather-DEL talk. 'People talk about the weather.'

verb=beszél NOM=ember DEL=időjárás verb=talk SUBJ=people ABOUT=weather

Péter fél az ismeretlen-től. Peter fear the unknown-ABL. 'Peter fears of the unknown.'

verb=fél NOM=Péter ABL=ismeretlen verb=fear SUBJ=Peter OF=unknown



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FIXED AND FREE DEPENDENTS

Hogy jöttek lét-re az első csillagok? how came existence-SUB the first stars? 'How the first stars came into existence?'

*verb=*jön *SUB=*lét *NOM=*csillag *verb=*come *INTO=*existence *SUBJ=*star

- fixed dependent:
 cannot change the content word
 without changing the meaning of the VPC
- free dependent:
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 without changing the meaning of the VPC



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MULTI-WORD VERBS

multi-word verb: verb stem + some fixed dependent(s)

lét-re jön existence-SUB come 'come into existence'

Multi-word verbs have...

- separate meaning
- own argument structure

```
rész-t vesz bAn
part-ACC take INE
'take part in something'
```

Typical units to be investigated using the VAB.

SENTENCE MODEL

sentence = verb + set of dependents dependent = type + content word

i.e.

verb=jön SUB=lét NOM=csillag verb=come INTO=existence SUBJ=star

In this way we can investigate VPCs independently from the particular word order in which they appear in the corpus.



CORPUS PREPARATION

Input: Hungarian National Corpus (POS-tagged and disambiguated)

- clause boundary detection
 - regexps based on conjunction and punctuation patterns
- verb normalization
 - e.g. separated verbal prefixes attached
- noun phrase chunking
 - → case and lemma of the head of dependent phrases
- → representation according to the model



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- **5** LANGUAGE INDEPENDENCE



A specific kind of VPCs:

'take part in SOMETHING'

- fixed dependent (object) + free dependent (in-phrase)
- multi-word verb with argument structure

These kind of expressions are

- subcategorization frames and
- collocations at the same time.

The idea behind the VAB is: treat VPCs as collocations.



We search for collocations in the space of these structures:

*verb=*jön SUB=lét NOM=csillag *verb=*come SUBJ=star *INTO*=existence

IDEA

Apply an association measure (designed for bigrams) taking . . .

- the content word of a particular dependent as one unit,
- all other parts of the verb frame as the other unit of the collocation.



We search for collocations in the space of these structures:

*verb=*jön SUB=lét NOM=?*verb=*come *INTO*=existence SUBJ=?

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If we choose the subject's content word as the first unit,



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verb=jön SUB=lét NOM=?
verb=come INTO=existence SUBJ=?

IDEA

Apply an association measure (designed for bigrams) taking . . .

- the content word of a particular dependent as one unit,
- *all other* parts of the verb frame as the other unit of the collocation.

If we choose the subject's content word as the first unit, we will query the most important or usual subjects of this construction, namely *what* is used to come into existence.



The Verb Argument Browser can answer the following typical research question:

- What are the salient words which can appear as a particular dependent of a given verb frame?
- What are the most important collocates of a given verb (or verb frame) as a particular dependent?

Association measure: salience (adjusted mutual information)

$$S(x,y) = log_2 f(x) \cdot log_2 N \frac{f(x,y)}{f(x) \cdot f(y)}$$



Consequence:

The Verb Argument Browser can treat not just a single word but a whole verb frame (a verb together with some dependents) as one unit in collocation extraction.

It can collect ...

- salient subjects of a verb,
- salient objects of a given verb-subject pair,
- salient locatives of a given verb—subject—object triplet . . .



- 2 VERB PHRASE CONSTRUCTIONS AS COLLOCATIONS
- USAGE & EXAMPLES



- corpus: Hungarian National Corpus (old version, 187 M words)
- response times: a few seconds

Search

Corpus: Hungarian National Corpus Verb: ker No: Case/postposition: ACC No: Argument lemma: Argument lemma: No: String: Argument lemma: Argument lemm	Distribution:
Full sentence coverage:	



Search

USAGE

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Search

Corpus: Hungarian National Corpus Velor: kėr No: Case/postposition: ACC No: Argument lemma: No: Case/postposition: ABL No: Argument lemma: No: String:	Distribution:
Full sentence coverage:	



USAGE

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No: Case/postposition ACC No: Argument lemma: C No: Case/postposition ABL No: Argument lemma: C No: String: Full sentence coverage:		No: ☐ Case/postposition ABL No: ☐ Argument lemma: ☐ No: ☐ String:	Distributio	n:
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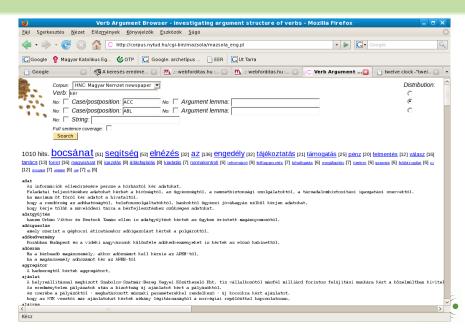


USAGE

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No: Case/postposition Acc No: Argument lemma: Cose/postposition ABL No: Argument lemma: Cose/postposition ABL		String:	No: Argument lemma: No: Argument lemma:	<u> </u>	Distribution:
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QUERY: 2 FREE DEPENDENTS

```
kér -t -tól
ask ACC ABL
'ask for something from somebody'
```

```
verb=kér ACC=? ABL=?
verb=ask for=? from=?
```



```
kér -t -tól
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```

```
verb=kér ACC=? ABL=?
verb=ask for=? from=?
```

Result: (Most salient objects:)

- bocsánat 'forgiveness'
- segítség 'help'
- elnézés also 'forgiveness'
- engedély 'permission'
-



Search

QUERY: 1 FIXED + 1 FREE DEPENDENT

```
figyelem-bA
 vesz
take consideration-ILL ACC
'take something into consideration'
```

```
verb=vesz ILL=figyelem
                             ACC=?
verb=take INTO=consideration
                             OBJ=?
```

```
HNC: Magyar Nemzet newspaper
                                                                                                Distribution:
Verb: vesz
                                    No: Argument lemm figyelem
No: Case/postposition: ILL
No: Case/postposition: ACC
                                    No: Argument lemma:
No: String:
Full sentence coverage:
```



vesz figyelem-bA -t take consideration-ILL ACC 'take SOMETHING into consideration'

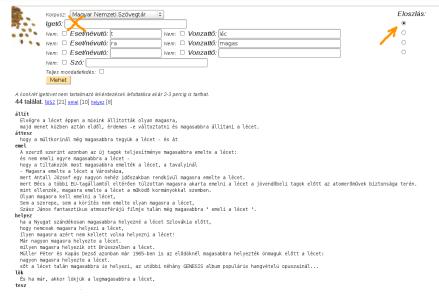
```
verb=vesz ILL=figyelem ACC=?
verb=take INTO=consideration OBJ=?
```

Result: (Most salient direct objects:)

- szempont 'point of view'
- érdek 'interest'
- vélemény 'opinion'
- ...



A TRICK: QUERYING THE VERB



```
ad -t
give ACC
'give something'
```

```
verb=ad ACC=?
verb=give OBJ=?
```



```
ad -t
give ACC
'give something'
```

```
verb=ad ACC=?
verb=give OBJ=?
```

Result: (Most salient direct objects:)

- hang 'voice' → 'to give voice to SOMETHING'
- hír 'news' → to give news ~ 'to report'
- igaz 'true' \rightarrow to give true \sim 'to take sy's side'
- ...



COLLECTING MWVS

Important property of the Verb Argument Browser:

For any specific dependent, the tool provides constructions where this dependent is fixed, if there is any such construction. (e.g. light verb constructions, idiomatic verbal expressions, figures of speech)

- + 'take' + into → 'consideration', 'account' ...
- 'eat' + OBJ → just some kinds of food in this case we obtain frequent words with literal meaning, often forming a semantically coherent class



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Warning: VPCs with fixed dependent(s) are frequent.

They are not to be ignored, it is necessary to deal with them.

E.g. when doing something with verbs, do not forget about multi-word verbs.

CORPUS SIZE \leftrightarrow ANNOTATION RICHNESS

- compared to...
 - large raw or POS-tagged corpora (∼ big data)
 - small syntactically annotated corpora (~ rich information)
- a VAB uses (and works well with) corpora which are big enough + have "some" syntactic information annotated
- using this approach corpus-driven information can be gathered about some "higher level" phenomena (i.e. the predicate-argument structure in our case) based on querying a quite large piece of text
- → a big corpus (size ≫ treebanks) with *some shallow* syntactic annotation can be a valuable resource. :)



- 2 VERB PHRASE CONSTRUCTIONS AS COLLOCATIONS
- **4** APPLICATIONS



APPLICATIONS

Past...

- lexical database development of a Hungarian to English machine translation system – handling MWVs
- searching for MWVs to include them into the Hungarian WordNet
- lexicography: Hungarian Verb Phrase Construction Dictionary

Future...

- language teaching
- linguistic research
 - studying verb synonyms
 - classifying verbs based on argument structure similarities
 - studying selectional preferences of verbs



- **5** Language independence



Claim: the approach is language independent.

- To extend the methodology to other languages all we need is a corpus represented according to our sentence model.
- Can we create such a representation?
- Essentially, the representation relies on the very fact that there are some kind of predicate-argument structure in the languages.
- All we should do is segment the text into sentences/clauses (containing a verb and its dependents) and specify the relationship between the verb and the particular dependents.

A PILOT VAB FOR SERBIAN

Just to show that the approach works. :)

Serbian: dependents are defined by case markers *or* case marker + preposition combinations.

- much smaller corpus (Intera)
- much simpler (pre)processing
 - clause boundary detection = just split at punctuations
 - verb identification = take the last verb + attach se if occurs
 - noun phrase chunking = extract PPs according to this simple pattern: a preposition + possible not-nouns + a noun
 - no case information: all NPs without preposition go to a big class (called ANYCASE)



REPRESENTATION OF A SERBIAN CLAUSE

Example clause from the corpus:

```
Svako
           ima
                 pravo na
                               rad.
                 right to/for work.
 Everyone has
'Everyone has the right to work.'
```

Representation of the example clause:

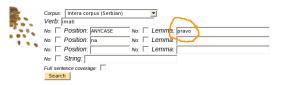
*verb=*imati ANYCASE=pravo na=rad OBJ=right *verb*=have to/for=work



EXAMPLE: A MULTIWORD VERB

Query:

'imati pravo na' ('have right to/for')





184 hits. Sloboda [27] Zaštita [23] naknada [13] jezik [7] odsustvo [5] lek [4] poštovanje [4] podrška [4] život [4]

freedom, protection, compensation, language ...



EXAMPLE: DISCOVERING MULTIWORD VERBS

Query: 'ići u' ('go in')

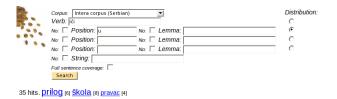
	Corpus: Intera corpus (Serbian)	No Lemma: No Lemma: No Lemma:	Distribution:
35 hits. DI	'ilog [6] škola [8] pravac [4]		

benefit, school, direction



EXAMPLE: DISCOVERING MULTIWORD VERBS

Query: 'ići u' ('go in')



benefit, school, direction

prilog does not fit into this little semantic class.

→ This phenomenon is a good indicator of being a MWV!

'ići u prilog' is a MWV.

Meaning: ∼ support – literally: 'go in benefit'



The methodology can be extended to other languages, and a fully functioning VAB can be created if a shallow parsed, adequately processed corpus is available.



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We experimented with Serbian, Danish, Dutch, French.



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→ Chinese?



AVAILABILITY

Available for you:

• Hungarian version:

http://corpus.nytud.hu/vab

Serbian version:

http://corpus.nytud.hu/vabs

username: lingcass

password: vab



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Thank you for your attention!

