Markéta Lopatková, Václava Kettnerová

**Alternations: From Lexicon to Grammar And Back Again**

Contemporary linguistic theories usually divide a language description into two basic components – a lexicon and a grammar. An excellent example of phenomenon bridging these components is provided by alternations.

In this contribution, we deal with selected alternations of verbs, namely diatheses and reciprocity in Czech. While these alternations typically keep the lexical meaning of verbs unchanged, they are characterized by various changes in surface syntactic and morphological structures in morphologically rich languages. In Czech, diatheses and reciprocity may affect a verb form (esp. grammatical category of voice), number of arguments, and morphemic cases of arguments. We want to demonstrate how the linguistic description of complex (still systemic) changes can benefit from the integration of grammatical rules into a valency lexicon.

Based on detailed empirical observations, we present a model aiming at an economic and theoretically well-founded description of valency behavior of verbs as it has been developed for VALLEX, the Valency Lexicon of Czech Verbs.

**Examples:**

* *potkat* [to meet] … valency frame: ACTor(nom) PATient(acc)

(1a)  *Petr potká Kláru v divadle.*  Peter meets Claire in the theatre.

(1b)  *Petr a Klára se potkají v divadle.* Peter and Claire meet in the theatre.

In (1b), ACTor and PATient, being in a reciprocal relation, are both expressed in the coordinated subject position. Reciprocity is obligatorily indicated by the reflexive pronoun *se* in accusative case (prescribed in the valency frame as the form of PATient) coreferring with the subject.

* *potkat\_se* [to meet], reflexive variant … valency frame: ACTor(nom) PATient(*s*+inst)

(2a) *Petr se potká s Klárou v divadle.* Peter meets with Claire in the theatre.

(2b) *Petr a Klára se potkali v divadle.* Peter and Claire meet in the theatre.

In (2b), ACTor and PATient, being in a reciprocal relation, are both expressed in the coordinated subject position; however, the reflexive *se* represents a particle which forms here a part of the verb lemma *potkat se*.

* *svěřovat* [to entrust] … valency frame: ACTor(nom) ADDRessee(dat) PATient(acc)

(3a) *Jana svěřuje své děti sestře Marii.* Jane entrusts her children to her sister Mary.

(3b) *Jana a Marie si (vzájemně) svěřují děti.* Jane and Mary entrust their children (to each other).

(3c) *Jana s Marií si (vzájemně) svěřují děti. ``* Jane with Mary entrust their children (to each other). *’’*

In (3b) and (3c), ACTor and ADDRessee, being a in reciprocal relation, are both expressed in the subject position coordinated paratactically (3b), or hypotactically (3c). Reciprocity is obligatorily indicated by the reflexive pronoun *si* in dative case (prescribed in the valency frame as the form of ADDRessee) coreferring with the subject.

* *svěřovat\_se* [to confide] … valency frame: ACTor(nom) ADDRessee(dat) PATient(*s*+inst)

(4a) *Jana se svěřuje Marii (se svými problémy).* Jane confides (her troubles) to Mary.

(4b) *Jana a Marie se (vzájemně) svěřují.* Jane and Mary confide (to each other).

(4c) *Sobě se Jana a Marie (vzájemně) svěřují,* Jane and Mary confide to each other,  *rodičům ale nikdy.*  but never to their parents.

In (4b) and (4c), ACTor and ADDRessee, being in a reciprocal relation, are both expressed in the coordinated subject position. As clitic forms of the reflexives are typically subject to the haplology, reciprocity is not explicitly expressed by the reflexive pronoun in dative case in (4b) (the reflexive *se* represents a particle forming a part of the verb lemma *svěřit\_se* here); however, reciprocity can be indicated by the long form of the reflexive pronoun *sobě* in dative case, as in (4c).