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Encuentro de Jóvenes Investigadores en Lingüística

The subatomic structure of (motion) events

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1. Introduction

Main Goal:

Analyze the relationship between spatial elements and the event structure:

→ What's the role of *a su casa* in *Juan fue a su casa*?

To do this:

1. Determine the structure of events.
2. Determine the properties of spatial elements.

What I analyze:

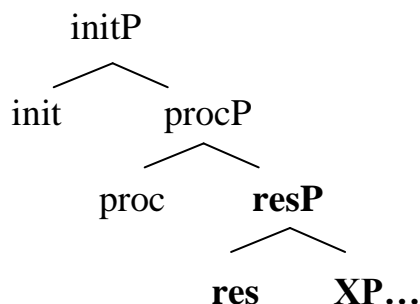
- a. Different underlying structure for just one verb?
 - (1) a. Juan fue a su casa.
b. Juan fue hacia su casa.
- b. Similar elements with different properties?
 - (2) a. Juan fue {a/*en} su casa.
b. Juan entró {a/en} su casa.
- c. Is Talmy's typology wrong?
 - (3) Juan bailó {hasta/hacia} su casa.
 - (4) Juan {corrió/*bailó} a su casa.

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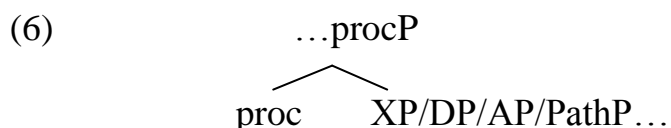
2. The event structure

- Ramchand (2008):

(5) *init-proc-res* structure → *res* as the complement of *proc*

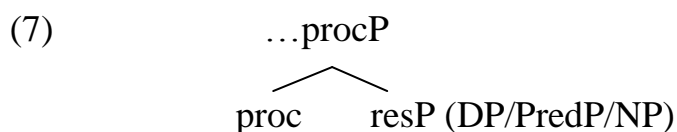


- But also other complements of *proc* in Ramchand: different DPs (*dance a jig, run a mile, bake a cake, eat the mango, do dance...*), empty XPs (*bake the potato*), PPs (*jump into the field*), PathPs (*walk into the house*), APs (*clean*), NPs...



→ My proposal: **the complement of *proc* is always a result element.**

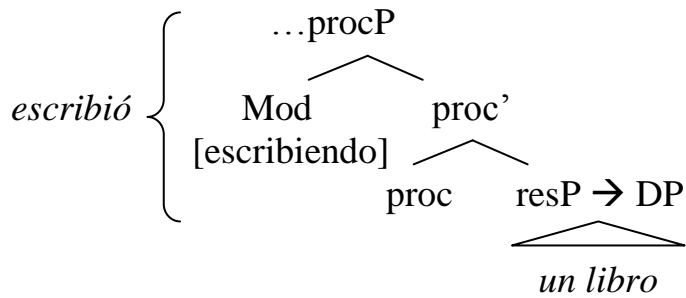
This result element can correspond to an entity, to a state or to an action:



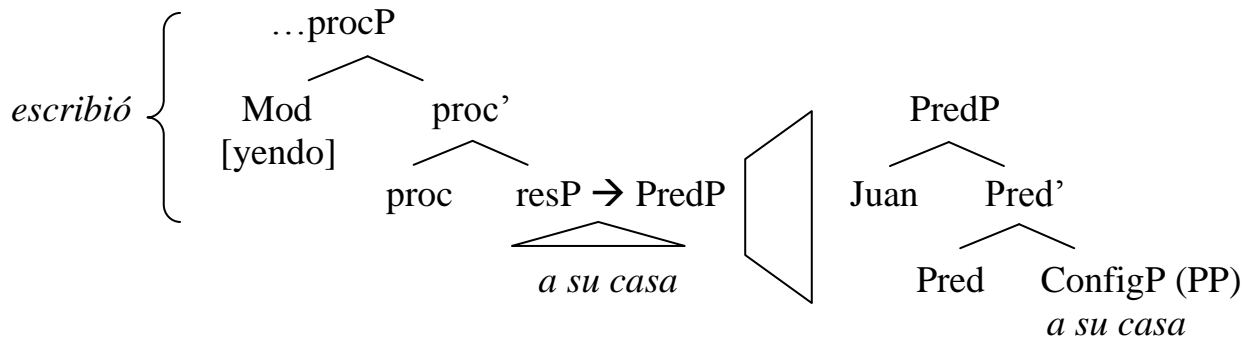
→ The result element corresponds to an element that is created in the event, i.e. that didn't exist before and comes to existence by means of the event.

- (8)
- Juan escribió un libro.
 - Juan fue a su casa.
 - Juan bailó.

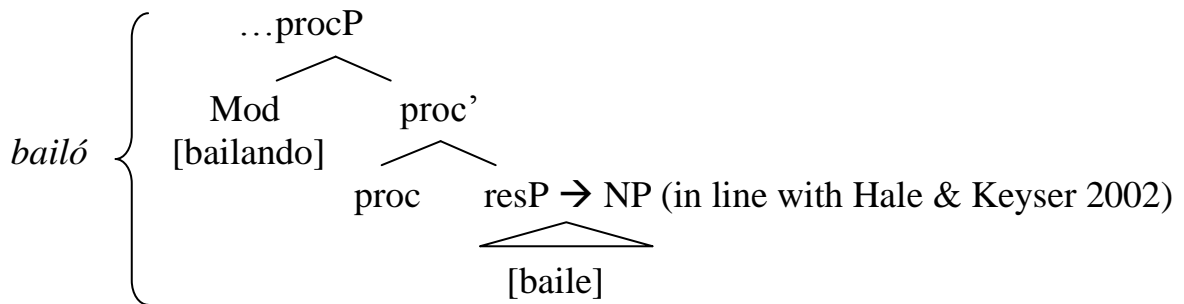
(9) Juan escribió un libro:



(10) Juan fue a su casa:

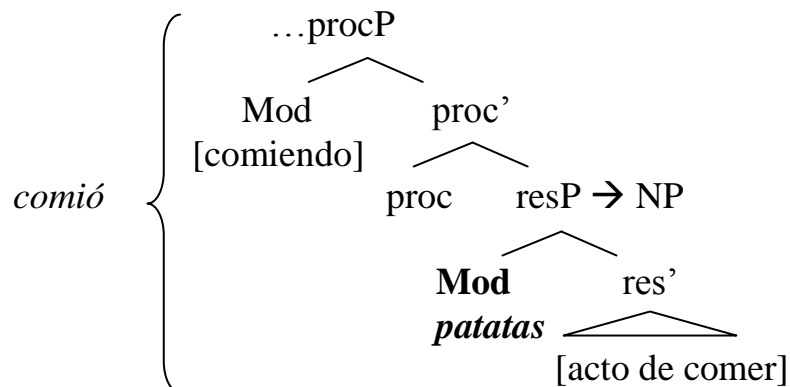


(11) Juan bailó:



→ Any other construction will have one of these structures. For instance:

(12) Juan comió patatas:



3. Spatial elements and the event structure

a. Different structure for just one verb?

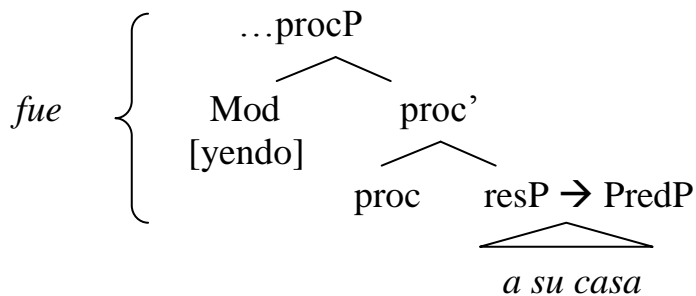
- (13) a. Juan fue a su casa → minimal transition with result (Fábregas 2007, a.o.)
 b. Juan fue hacia su casa → activity

(14) Juan fue {hacia/*a} su casa durante dos horas.

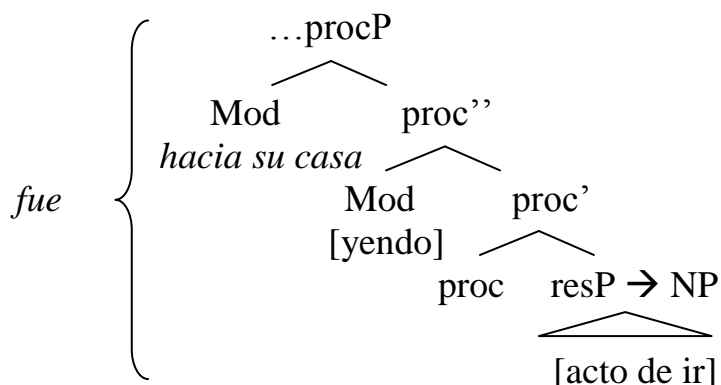
- Assuming that lexical items are just elements that give phonological content to chunks of the structure with similar semantic components:

→ *ir* can lexicalize two different structures:

(15) *ir* with PredP as a result → *Juan fue a su casa*.



(16) *ir* with an action (NP) as a result → *Juan fue hacia su casa*

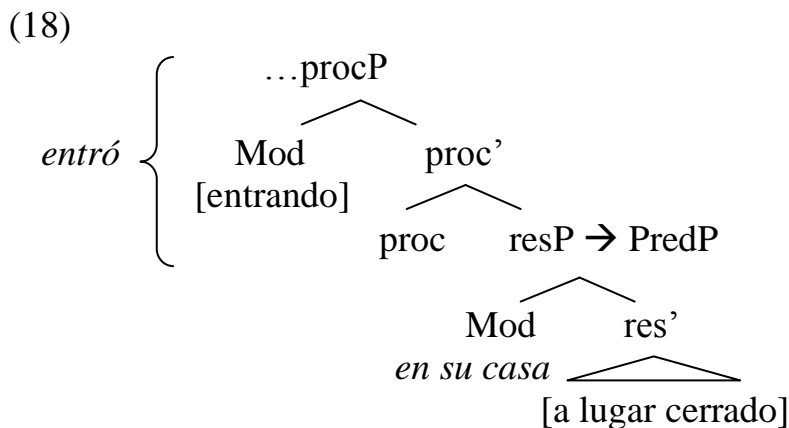


* Path constructions are modifiers (adjuncts) of *proc* (cf. Matushansky et al. 2012)

b. Similar elements with different properties?

- (17) a. Juan fue {a/*en} su casa.
 b. Juan entró {a/en} su casa.

→ Verbs like *entrar* entail some property of the Ground (closeness) and, thus, it is possible to interpret a result independently. This result can be modified:



→ *a* is different from *en*. It lexicalizes *Displace*. Only elements that lexicalize *Displace* can be the complement of *Pred* in directional constructions.

c. Is Talmy's (2000) typology wrong?

- In languages like Spanish Manner of Motion verbs can't give directional interpretations.

But:

- (19) Juan bailó {hasta/hacia} su casa.

- Real Puigdollers (2010:125): "The properties of adpositional systems can suffice to explain the Talmian distinction between satellite and verb framed languages"

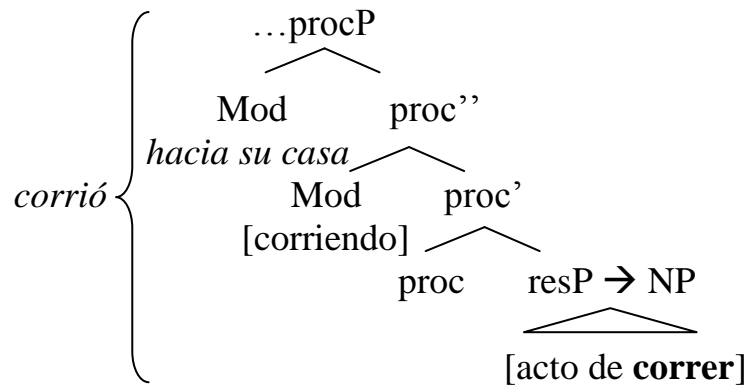
→ *hacia* and *hasta* lexicalize projections that don't block durativity of Manner of Motion Verbs, unlike *a*.

But:

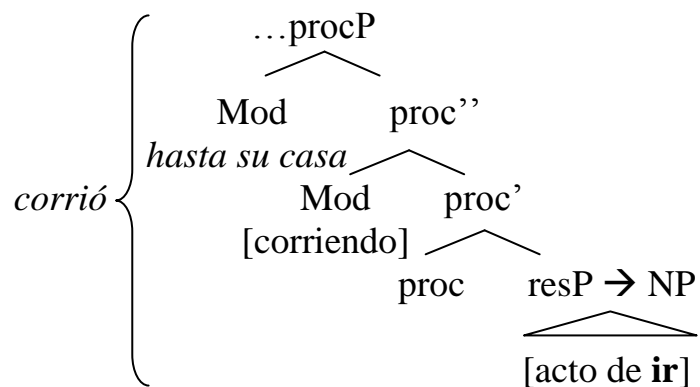
- (20) Juan {corrió/*bailó} a su casa.

→ Verbs like *correr* can lexicalize two different structures:

(21) Juan corrió hacia su casa:



(22) Juan corrió a su casa:



→ Verbs like *correr* can lexicalize a *res* that means [acto de ir], because their inherent meaning represents a movement forward, unlike verbs like *bailar*.

4. Conclusions

- Lexical items just give phonological content to the syntactico-semantic structure
 - They can lexicalize different chunks of the structure, which generally have a similar semantic component
 - Apparent problems can be solved by analyzing the syntactic and semantic properties of the chunk that each lexical item lexicalizes.
- *proc* always has a result as a complement. This result may correspond to an entity, a state or an action.
 - Differences between verbs and between the different uses of a verb can be explained by means of this.

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