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## The FrameNet Approach to Relating Syntax and Semantics

1. Introduction
2. Creation and contents of the FrameNet  
resource
3. Human access to FrameNet data
4. Automatic access to FrameNet data
5. Relation to other electronic  
resources
6. FrameNet work-flow and coverage
7. Impact
8. Recent developments and outlook

### Abstract:

FrameNet is a research project that analyzes the vocabulary of English in terms of frame semantics based on corpus evidence. This article describes how the work proceeds, what the resulting product looks like and how the resource is used. It also draws comparisons to other electronic resources and commercial lexicography to highlight FrameNet's unique features.

### 1. Introduction

FrameNet is a research project that seeks to put into practice the principles of Frame Semantics as proposed by Charles J. Fillmore (1977, 1985). The main idea is that the

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meanings of words are best characterized in terms of experience-based schematizations of events and objects in the speaker's world. Such schematizations concern particular types of events and the participants and circumstances involved in them. The schematizations are referred to, in Frame Semantics, as semantic '*frames*'. Individual word senses are called '*lexical units*' (LUs). When a lexical unit is related to a given frame, Frame Semantics says that the LU '*evokes*' that frame. Typically, senses of different words share the same schematization with other word senses, that is, groups of word senses evoke the same frame. The roles associated with the event are referred to as '*frame elements*' (FEs). The same system of analysis applies not only to events but also to relations, states, and objects; the frame-evoking expressions may be single words or multi-word expressions, and they may be of any syntactic category (Fillmore, Johnson and Petrucci 2003). For example, in (1) the verb *comply* (the '*target*' LU) '*evokes*' the Compliance frame: several semantically related words such as *adhere*, *adherence*, *comply*, *compliant*, and *violate*, among others, evoke the same frame.

(1) *The appellant failed to comply with the rules of the hostel.*

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The *Compliance* frame is characterized by relationships holding between different FEs, such as *Acts* and *States\_of\_Affairs* for which *Protagonists* are responsible; the frame has to do with whether the *Acts* or *States\_of\_Affairs* are or are not in accord with some *Norm*.

The FE *Act* identifies the act that is judged to be in or out of compliance with the norm(s). The FE *Norm* identifies the norms that ought to guide a person's behavior. The FE *Protagonist* refers to a person whose behavior is in or out of compliance with norms. Finally, the FE *State\_of\_Affairs* refers to a situation that may violate a norm. Besides compiling frame descriptions and lists of frame-evoking LUs, frame semanticists are also interested in determining how FEs are realized syntactically (Atkins, Fillmore and Johnson 2003, Fillmore 2007).

The remainder of this article deals with the practical implementation of Frame Semantics in the FrameNet project (<http://framenet.icsi.berkeley.edu>; Ruppenhofer et al. 2010), focusing on the work-flow of the project and its different uses as a lexical resource, its relation to other electronic resources, and its impact on linguistic research. For a detailed glossary of FrameNet (FN) terminology, see

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<https://framenet.icsi.berkeley.edu/fndrupal/glossary>.

## 2. Creation and contents of the FrameNet resource

At the core of FrameNet's activities since the late 1990s is the compilation of a lexicographic database, which currently contains more than 1,000 frame descriptions together with lexical entries for more than 12,000 LUs and more than 185,000 annotated examples (as of November 2011). The FrameNet database is freely available for any purpose, and is used by hundreds of research groups worldwide.

At the beginning of the lexicographic process, the FN staff proposes a frame description, including what sorts of FEs the frame needs and what LUs might evoke it. During this stage, lexicographers depend both on their intuitions and on careful searches of electronic corpora. The basic criterion for defining the boundaries of a frame is that all LUs should evoke the same type of event and share the same inventory and configuration of FEs. That is, the FEs should have the same semantic types; be of the same relative importance (traditionally, this is thought of in terms of the argument-adjunct distinction); and take the same pragmatic perspective (e.g. in active-form clauses, the same FE should be the

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subject of all the verbs in the frame). For more  
 discussion of these criteria, see Petruck et al.  
 (2004).

Next, example sentences are extracted from  
 electronic corpora for each target LU; trained  
 annotators then use the FN desktop software  
 to manually annotate roughly 10-20 sentences  
 per LU.

As the annotators apply labels showing which  
 parts of the sentence fill which FE role, labels  
 for their phrase types (PTs), and their  
 grammatical functions (GFs) vis-à-vis the  
 target word are added automatically. (The GF  
 and PT can be corrected by the annotator if  
 necessary.) Two example annotations are  
 given in Figs. 1 and 2.

	I	<b>substitute</b>	tea	for	coffee
FE	Agent		New		Old
PT	NP		NP		PP
GF	Ext		Obj		Dep

Fig. 1: *substitute* NP PP\_for

	I	<b>substitute</b>	coffee	with	tea
FE	Agent		Old		New
PT	NP		NP		PP
GF	Ext		Obj		Dep

Fig. 2: *substitute* NP PP\_with

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The goal is to arrive at an annotation set for every possible combination of FE, GF, and PT. For instance, for the verb *substitute* in the frame `Replacing`, the two different mappings of the FEs *Old* and *New* to grammatical functions in active-form clauses, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, are documented. When the annotation is completed, the valence of each LU is automatically summarized by abstracting over the annotated examples. Finally, the lexical entry is "produced" as a report from the FrameNet database. It includes a brief definition of the LU together with the frame it evokes and valence tables providing exhaustive information about every attested combinatorial possibility of FEs and their syntactic realizations. Depending on the LU, it may also contain information such as the semantic type of the LU and a list of annotated support or controller verbs, etc. For an in-depth description of the FN work-flow, see Fillmore et al. (2003), Ruppenhofer et al. (2010), and Fillmore and Baker (2010). Baker, Fillmore and Cronin (2003) provide a technical description of the FN database.

Since 2004, FN staff have also been annotating continuous texts, thereby creating lexical entries and a continuous corpus of annotated sentences. This full-text annotation differs from FN's established lexicographic research in several ways:

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- Typically, between two and ten LUs are annotated per sentence, in as many different frames. By contrast, in the lexicographic work, only one LU per sentence is annotated.
- With full texts, annotators must label whatever the text contains, regardless of syntactic complexity, ambiguity, rhetorical infelicity, etc., whereas lexicographers can choose the clearest and simplest examples of a given LU to annotate.
- Full-text annotation drives the discovery of new frames, that is, if there are no existing frames they have to be created “on the fly”.

After more than a decade, the number of semantic frames has grown to more than 1,000. To show that frames are not simply isolated entities, FN has developed an elaborate system of frame-to-frame relations representing a hierarchy of frames in which some frames are instances of others, some are components of others, etc. The most commonly found relations include those representing generalizations (INHERITANCE, USING, PERSPECTIVE ON), complex events (SUBFRAME, PRECEDES), and “systematic” relations (CAUSATIVE OF, INCHOATIVE OF); an additional relation, called “SEE ALSO” serves as a cross-reference between frames (see Fillmore and Baker (2010) and

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Ruppenhofer et al. (2010) for more details on  
frame-to-frame relations).

### 3. Human access to FrameNet data

Although snapshot data releases are available  
for download, human users mainly access FN  
on the web, where the data is updated  
frequently. The top-level page of FN's website  
(<http://framenet.icsi.berkeley.edu>)  
provides several access paths to the data. The  
information in FN can be accessed from two  
major perspectives: '*onomasiologically*',  
beginning with a concept (frame) to be  
encoded, or '*semasiologically*', beginning  
with a form (lemma) to be decoded. The first  
perspective is realized by the Frame Index,  
which leads to a page with an alphabetized  
list of frames in a navigation pane on the left  
and a larger right panel where descriptions  
of selected frames are displayed. The frame  
descriptions include, in order:

- a definition;
- a list of FEs, in sub-groups reflecting  
grammatical prominence, where each  
item is accompanied by a definition and  
one or more examples;
- a list of frame-to-frame relations;
- and a list of LUs that can evoke the  
frame.

In the frame and FE definitions, the FEs used  
in the example sentences are identified for



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users by mark-up. In the frame-to-frame  
relations section, hyper-links are provided to  
related frames. Likewise, in the list of  
associated LUs, two links each are provided  
per LU: one to an Annotation Report and  
another to a Lexical Entry Report.

The Annotation Report consists of a listing of  
the FEs for the associated frame and then a  
display of annotated instances of the LU,  
grouped into subsets (*'sub-corpora'*) according  
to the syntactic patterns used to extract them.  
The syntactic patterns usually serve to target  
particular syntactic complementation types.  
E.g for the noun *oath* in the `Commitment`  
frame, there are sub-corpora named *vpto* and  
*sthat* for uses where the noun takes infinitival  
and finite-clause complements, respectively.  
The Lexical Entry Report contains two types of  
summary information. First, it provides a list of  
the individual FEs and the ways in which they  
are realized in the annotated instances. Fig. 3  
shows the syntactic realizations found with the  
verb *substitute* for the three core frame  
elements in the `Replacing` frame. Note that  
the notion of “realization” used by FrameNet  
covers cases in which the Frame Element is  
not overtly realized at all but instead “null  
instantiated”. This can happen through the  
idiosyncratic licensing of a lexical unit or the  
licensing of a syntactic construction.  
FrameNet distinguishes three types of missing  
elements: DNI (“definite null instantiation”)

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marks FEs that are unrealized but which have to be recoverable from the context. An example is the FE *Old* in the *Replacing* frame in a sentence such as *We'll substitute sugar*. Fig. 3 shows that there are 9 such cases of DNI for the FE *Old* in the FrameNet annotations for *substitute*. INI (“indefinite null instantiation”) marks FEs that are merely existentially bound. An example is the FE *New* in *I have to replace sugar in my diet*. CNI (“constructional null instantiation”) marks all omissions licensed by a syntactic construction. A typical case is the omission of agentive FEs in the passive construction, as in *The tire needs to be replaced*.

Frame Element	Number Annotated	Realizations
Agent	57	CNI.-- (18) NP.Ext (35) PP[by].Dep (3) Poss.Ext (1)
New	57	NP.Ext (16) INI.-- (5) NP.Dep (1) NP.Obj (30) PP[with].Dep (5)
Old	57	DNI.-- (9) NP.Ext (5) PP[for].Dep (32)

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		PP[in].Dep (4) PP[as].Dep (1) PP[of].Dep (1) NP.Obj (5)
--	--	--

Fig. 3: Partial Syntactic Realization Table for *substitute* in Replacing

The Lexical Entry report also contains a list that shows all the attested combinations in which groups of FEs were co-realized. Some of the attestations found with *substitute* in the Replacing frame are shown in Fig. 4.

Number Annotated		Patterns		
1 Total	Agent	Manner	New	Old
(1)	PP[by]. Dep	PP[without]. Dep	INI	NP .Ext
1 Total	Agent	Means	New	Old
(1)	CNI	PP[by]. Dep	NP. Ext	DNI

Fig. 4: Partial Valence Pattern Table for *substitute* in Replacing

The second row in the table describes the pattern of FEs found in the following sentence:

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(2) ... *some alternative can be substituted by  
electoral decision.*

Both types of tables contain hyper-linked  
counts for the number of annotated instances  
exemplifying the FE (or FE combination),  
which can be displayed by following the links.  
The two report pages for a given lexical unit  
are also interlinked.

The decoding perspective is represented by  
the alphabetized Index of LUs. Users can  
simply browse this index or use a search box  
to find LUs. Note that there is no direct  
representation of lemmas: the different LUs  
(senses) connected to the same lemma simply  
follow each other. Unlike on the semantic side,  
where one can easily follow links from frame  
to related frame, on the form side there are no  
direct links between the LUs associated with  
the same lemma, or between LUs belonging  
to morphologically related lemmas. Each entry  
for a LU comes with information on the work-  
flow status of the LU, and with three links: one  
to the Frame description, one to the  
Annotation report, and one to the Lexical Entry  
Report (as described above).

A third type of access point is the index of  
Full-Text annotations. A Full-Text Annotation  
Report pairs a display of the running text of a

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document with a display of the annotations of  
specific user-selectable items from the running  
text. Although the annotated instances in full -  
text documents are also part of the Annotation  
and Lexical Entry Reports for the relevant  
lexical units, they can be viewed in their  
document-context only via the Full-text  
Annotation Report.

A fourth kind of data access is given by the  
FrameGrapher visualization tool  
(<https://framenet.icsi.berkeley.edu/fndrupal/FrameGrapher>). While a frame's frame-to-frame  
relations are also listed in the Frame reports,  
the FrameGrapher is particularly suited to  
interactively exploring the topology of relations  
that exist in a set of related frames. For  
example, users can choose a focal frame on  
which the display is to be centered and a set  
of frame relation types they are interested in.  
In order to manage the size and layout of the  
resulting display, users can specify the  
number of levels of the (sub-)hierarchy and  
the number of leaf nodes to be displayed.  
Both the frames and the links in the graph can  
be clicked by the user, resulting, respectively,  
in a re-centered graph with a new focal frame,  
or in an expanded graph, where the frame  
element-to-frame element relations that go  
along with the chosen frame-to-frame  
relationship are displayed in detail (see  
Fillmore and Baker 2010: 332-333 for details).

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Fig. 5 shows a set of frames related to the idea of employment as portrayed in the FrameGrapher. The dashed lines indicate SUBFRAME relations, the solid lines indicate PERSPECTIVE ON relations.

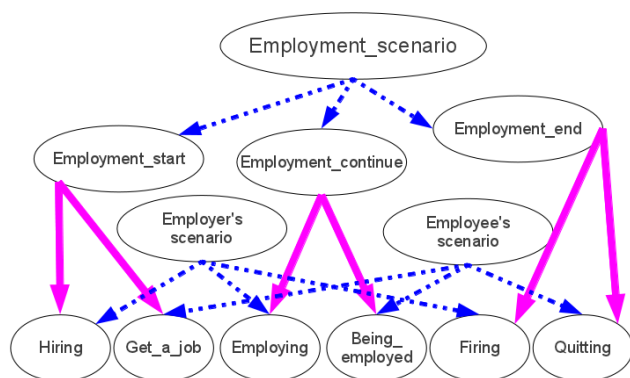


Fig. 5: FrameGrapher display for employment-related frames

The final view on the FrameNet data is provided by the FrameSQL search tool ([http://framenet2.icsi.berkeley.edu/frameSQL/fn2\\_15/notes/](http://framenet2.icsi.berkeley.edu/frameSQL/fn2_15/notes/)), which is developed and maintained independently by Prof. Hiroaki Sato of Senshu University, Japan. In addition to the English-language FrameNet, FrameSQL can search the frame semantic annotations of FrameNet's German, Japanese, and Spanish sister projects. Furthermore, it also integrates information from all four resources. As a result, users can access the information from the different

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sources aligned seamlessly, as if they were a  
single database. Hyper-links among the  
databases and accompanying search  
capabilities make it easy to compare the  
semantic structures of corresponding frames  
or lexical units across the languages (see  
Sato et al. 2008).

Besides the FN website, human users can  
also access the first three types of information  
(Frame, LU-specific Lexical Entry and  
Annotation Reports, and Full-text annotation  
reports) in the FN data release, which consists  
of a set of static interlinked XML pages that  
can also be viewed in a web browser. The  
data release does not, however, include the  
FrameGrapher or the FrameSQL tools.  
Morphological information on inflectional forms  
of lemmas is not provided online nor in the  
releases.

#### 4. Automatic access to FrameNet data

As used in the work of the FN project, the  
physical database is implemented as a  
relational database (MySQL), whose contents  
lexicographers and annotators access and  
edit via graphical user interfaces, controlled by  
a client-server architecture that ensures data  
integrity and consistency (see Baker, Fillmore  
and Cronin 2003). For purposes of  
distribution, the contents of the database are  
converted into several sets of XML

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documents. For instance, the release includes one file per frame, one file per LU annotated in the lexicographic mode, one file per full-text document annotated, etc. The types of XML files distributed in the release do not mirror the database tables one-to-one. For instance, the descriptions of the FEs are simply included in the frames files of the release. Along with the data files, the FN data release includes XML schema description files, but no ready application programming interface (API). However, several user-contributed APIs are available for different versions of FN (<http://www.cl.uni-heidelberg.de/trac/FrameNetAPI>, <https://ptl.sys.virginia.edu/msg8u/NLP/Source/ResourceAPIs/FrameNet/>).

## 5. Relation to other electronic resources

### 5.1. WordNet

WordNet (WN; Miller et al. 1990) is a far more extensive lexical resource than FrameNet, with more than 200,000 word senses, (i.e. lemma-synset pairs), compared to FrameNet's 11,000; furthermore, WN has more than 117,000 synsets to FrameNet's 1,000 frames. Indeed, although synsets and frames both represent groupings of words, they are fundamentally different conceptually: Words in a synset are intended to be synonymous, and



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thus substitutable in a least in some context. Words in a frame, on the other hand, are supposed to be related to the same type of event, but that does not necessarily imply synonymy (see Boas 2005). For example, antonyms such as the verbs *praise* and *criticize* are both in the FN `Judgment_Communication` frame, as they involve the same sorts of participants; aside from the differences in their definitions, they are also distinguished with regard to semantic type: *praise* is marked as "positive judgment", while *criticize* is neutral. In WordNet, *praise* is in one synset and *criticize* in two, where one is defined as 'to act as a critic', and the other ('to find fault with') is linked to the *praise* synset by an antonymy relation.

When FrameNet first began its lexicographic work, there was an expectation that WN synsets would guide the lexicographers in deciding which word senses go into which frames. In practice, although FN lexicographers often consult WN along with other machine-readable dictionaries in the course of defining frames and LUs, the set of LUs in a FN frame and the set of lemmas in a WN synset often do not overlap that closely. The two resources are constructed on quite different principles and this is reflected in their different treatments of individual LUs. In fact, there is an emerging consensus that the two resources should be aligned with each other

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to the extent possible, but that they cannot be  
merged. For studies of parallel WordNet-  
FrameNet annotation, see Fellbaum and  
Baker (*submitted*) and DeMelo et al. (2012).

## 5.2. Valence-focused resources (Levin, PropBank, NomBank)

Levin's (1993) linguistic study classifies more  
than 3,000 English verbs on the basis of their  
diathesis alternations; verbs which share the  
same subset of possible syntactic alternations  
form a group which is also likely to be  
semantically similar in important respects.  
FN's work differs from Levin's in two key  
respects. First, it covers open lexical classes  
beyond verbs. Second, while it acknowledges  
that syntactic alternations can be the basis for  
groupings of verbs that make some semantic  
sense, it considers the nexus between shared  
syntactic alternations and common semantic  
features to be much less tight than does  
Levin's work (Baker and Ruppenhofer 2002,  
Boas 2011).

VerbNet (Kipper et al. 2006) is a large on-line  
verb lexicon for English. It is a hierarchical  
domain-independent, broad-coverage verb  
lexicon, built on the basis of Levin-style  
alternations, and has mappings to other lexical  
resources, among them WordNet and  
FrameNet.

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The primary goal in creating the PropBank resource (Palmer, Gildea and Kingsbury 2005) was to provide an analysis of all instances of every verb in the Penn Treebank II corpus (Marcus et al. 1994). PropBank (<http://verbs.colorado.edu/~mpalmer/projects/ace.html>) provides no analyses for other parts-of-speech. The NomBank sister project (Meyers et al. 2004) began later to extend parallel analyses to nouns. The sense analyses that PropBank produces (called ‘framesets’) are verb-specific. Although sometimes connections to VerbNet are pointed out in the descriptions of PropBank's framesets, as a whole PropBank does not readily allow for the kinds of generalizations and inferences that FrameNet's frames and their hierarchy allow. Further, PropBank overall seems to make fewer fine-grained distinctions than FrameNet does. For instance, causative-inchoative pairs are not distinguished and PropBank has coarser role analyses for cases where FrameNet avails itself of role-to-role relations such as Excludes, Requires, and CoreSet. For instance, while FrameNet distinguishes asymmetric and symmetric uses of verbs like *meet* and *resemble* by using different roles, PropBank does not explicate the difference.

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For example, in *She and I first met in college*  
(an instance of *meet* in the `Making  
acquaintance` frame), the conjoined NP  
*She and I* is labeled with the FE  
`Individuals`; conversely, in *I first met her  
in college*, *I* is labeled with the FE  
`Individual_1` and *her* with  
`Individual_2`. The difference is subtle,  
but the latter wording emphasizes the role and  
point of view of the speaker; the former is  
more reciprocal.

## 6. FrameNet work-flow and coverage

An idealized presentation of FrameNet's  
lexicographic work-flow may suggest a fairly  
strict, linear approach beginning with frame  
creation, continuing with FE definition and LU  
selection and ending with annotation. In  
reality, FN's work proceeds in a more  
interdependent and iterative fashion. Frame  
definition already takes into account possible  
LUs, and facts discovered during annotation  
may lead to modifications of a frame's  
definition or its set of frame elements.

It is also worth emphasizing that FN's  
progression through the vocabulary is  
"organic" rather than linear. In lexicographic  
work, the choice of which new frame to define  
is often influenced by the frames most recently

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defined: patterns of polysemy exhibited by the lemmas that have lexical units associated with Frame A may raise awareness of the existence of Frame B. In the more recent work on full-text annotation, the frames to work on are determined by the texts chosen. The "organic" growth of FrameNet, driven either by patterns of polysemy or domain coherence, means that, contrary to conventional lexicography, FrameNet is completed frame by frame. As a result, some of the senses of polysemous words, perhaps even frequent ones, will be analyzed by FN much later than others.

## 7. Impact

### 7.1. Linguistics and Lexicography

The field of "traditional" linguistics in the U.S. is divided into a variety of schools with quite different approaches, so it is natural that frame semantics and FrameNet will have more impact on some schools than others. Those linguists who have explicitly disavowed any interest in the communicative use of language would not be expected to follow FN research, with its focus on documenting patterns of use LU by LU. The major influence of the FrameNet project has probably been to draw more attention to frame semantics, particularly in the fields of Cognitive Linguistics and lexical semantics. A new journal, *Constructions and*

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### *Frames*

(<http://benjamins.com/#catalog/journals/cf>),  
has begun publishing articles on construction  
grammar and frame semantics, many of which  
use FrameNet data.

FrameNet is also a resource that  
lexicographers increasingly pay attention to as  
discussed in Atkins, Rundell and Sato's  
(2003) article in the special issue of the  
*International Journal of Lexicography* devoted  
to FrameNet. Atkins was in fact one of the  
founders of the FrameNet project, and she  
and her collaborators routinely teach  
beginning lexicographers how to apply the  
principles of frame semantics in their daily  
work (Lexicography Master Class, cf.  
<http://www.lexmasterclass.com>). Over the past  
ten years, FrameNet has also been taken as a  
basis for building FrameNets for other  
languages such as Spanish, German,  
Japanese, and French (see Boas 2009 for an  
overview).

## 7.2. Computational linguistics

FrameNet has had a large impact on the field  
of computational linguistics. First and  
foremost, it has paved the way for the task of  
automatic semantic role labeling (ASRL)  
introduced by the seminal work of Gildea and  
Jurafsky (2002). Several evaluations for  
automatic role labeling systems have since

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taken place under the umbrella of the  
SemEval

([http://aclweb.org/aclwiki/index.php?title=Sem  
Eval\\_Portal](http://aclweb.org/aclwiki/index.php?title=Sem_Eval_Portal)) series of evaluation campaigns  
(2004, 2007, 2010). Furthermore, systems  
that automatically identify frames and assign  
semantic roles have also been incorporated  
into various other natural language processing  
tasks such as Question Answering (Shen and  
Lapata 2007), Sentiment Analysis (Bethard et  
al 2004), or Entailment Recognition (Burchardt  
2008).

Apart from analysis systems, FN has also  
inspired interest as a model for encoding  
certain kinds of domain knowledge, e.g.  
Dolbey (2009) for the bio-medical domain,  
Borin, Gronostaj and Kokkinakis (2007) for  
medical knowledge, and Schmidt (2008) for  
football vocabulary ([www.kicktionary.de/](http://www.kicktionary.de/)).  
FN's data has also come to serve as a gold  
standard data set in computational work  
seeking to automatically cluster the English  
vocabulary into semantically coherent groups  
(Green, Dorr and Resnik 2004, Schulte im  
Walde 2008). It has been used similarly in  
research on computational psycho-linguistics  
(Pado 2007).

The main factors limiting FN's use in natural  
language processing systems are the  
following. First, the organic growth of  
FrameNet presents a problem for word sense

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disambiguation or role labeling systems (as well as for human users) that are interested in full coverage of the general language. Without the full set of frames that a lemma can evoke, it is not easy to determine where the boundaries of the defined senses are and to know which as yet undefined senses might exist. In domain-specific applications, this problem may not loom as large, however. Second, the focus on prototypical examples and the lack of statistical representativeness in the lexicographic annotation make it difficult to train supervised statistical analysis systems on FN's annotated data and to apply them to new texts. Third, FN, like other resources such as WordNet, is sometimes said to make too fine-grained semantic distinctions that current NLP systems cannot learn robustly (Palmer et al. 2007).

## 8. Recent developments and outlook

### 8.1 Grammatical Constructions

According to the theory of construction grammar, there is only one kind of linguistic object that speakers of a language have to learn: the construction, a pairing of a form and a meaning. The lexical units of FN are simply constructions whose form pole is one or more word-forms, and whose meaning pole is partially represented as a specific semantic frame; but in general, the form pole of a



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construction can also be purely syntactic,  
independent of any LU. Various degrees of  
specificity are possible on each side of the  
construction. Many of the “interesting”  
constructions are partially, but not entirely,  
lexical and are precisely what causes  
conventional parsers to fail or give incomplete  
analyses of sentences such as the following:

(2) *I can't stand to see, let alone touch, boa  
constrictors.*

(3) *The gifted have a duty to help the less  
fortunate.*

(4) *What's this scratch doing on the table top?*  
(cf. Kay and Fillmore 1999)

In 2011, the FrameNet team completed a pilot  
project to document non-lexical constructions,  
just as the current FrameNet documents the  
lexical constructions by manually annotating  
examples drawn from corpora, using a set of  
'*construction elements*' (CEs), analogously to  
annotation with frame elements, using an  
enhanced version of the FN annotation  
software. Roughly 75 constructions were  
described in the pilot study, and most were  
documented by annotating representative  
examples drawn from corpora or the web.  
Some of these also evoke frames already  
described in FN, and so are annotated with  
regard to both their syntax and their frame  
semantics. A particular area of research is  
constructions related to rates of various kinds,

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such as *ten dollars an hour*, *30 m.p.g.*, *10 m./s<sup>2</sup>*, and *1.3 hectares per family*. Standard parsers simply analyze such phrases as two adjacent NPs, yet they are clearly members of a family of regular constructions based on the underlying notion of a fraction with a numerator and a denominator.

The goal of this project is to create a "Constructicon" and a set of gold standard annotation data which can be used to train automatic recognizers for all sorts of constructions, including the "interesting ones", in other words, to produce construction-aware parsers (Fillmore, Lee-Goldman and Rhodes (in press)).

## 8.2. Enrichment

Since the creation of lexical resources such as FrameNet is labor-intensive, it is natural that developers and users explore various ways to maximize the benefit of FrameNet data or reduce the effort involved in their creation. One strategy, as discussed in section 5.1. using the example of the WordNet-FrameNet alignment, is to link FrameNet to other resources in order to combine knowledge. A more ambitious approach is embodied by the Swedish FrameNet++ project (<http://spraakbanken.gu.se/swefn/>), which from the start has sought to recycle existing resources in building up a Swedish frame semantic resource. A third, recently emerging

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strategy is to semi-automatically add certain kinds of information to the database as a whole based on manual seed data. For instance, information related to positive and negative associations of lexical units for use in Sentiment Analysis might be propagated throughout FrameNet's frames using frame relations and information gleaned from definitions and annotated instances. Finally, another avenue for expanding FrameNet is to explore so-called crowd-sourcing approaches to the acquisition of lexical knowledge (Hong and Baker 2011).

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FrameNet API for C#.Net  
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