

August 6, 2021

MWE workshop



Sous la co-tutelle de :
CNRS
ÉCOLE DES PONTS PARISTECH
UNIVERSITÉ GUSTAVE EIFFEL

Where Do Aspectual Variants of Light Verb Constructions Belong?

Aggeliki Fotopoulou, Eric Laporte, Takuya Nakamura

Institute for Language
and Speech Processing



Université
Gustave Eiffel

Aspectual variants of light verb constructions

You got the habit of reading

Change of state: 'beginning'

A matter of aspect

The 'begin' element of meaning is triggered by the verb *get*

get the habit of

lose the habit of

keep the habit of

regain the habit of

Aspect is essential to interpretation

Applications: text analytics, digital forensics...

Where do such phrases belong?

Verbal idioms (VI)?

The event takes place each year
Irrelevant to the *place* of *the event*

Light verb constructions (LVC)?

The woman took a walk
This meaning is also observed in *the woman's walk*

Compositional phrases (CP)?

The woman took a study on cubism
Both *take* and *study* retain a meaning observed in other contexts

The PARSEME decision tree

PARSEME guidelines (Ramisch et al., 2020)

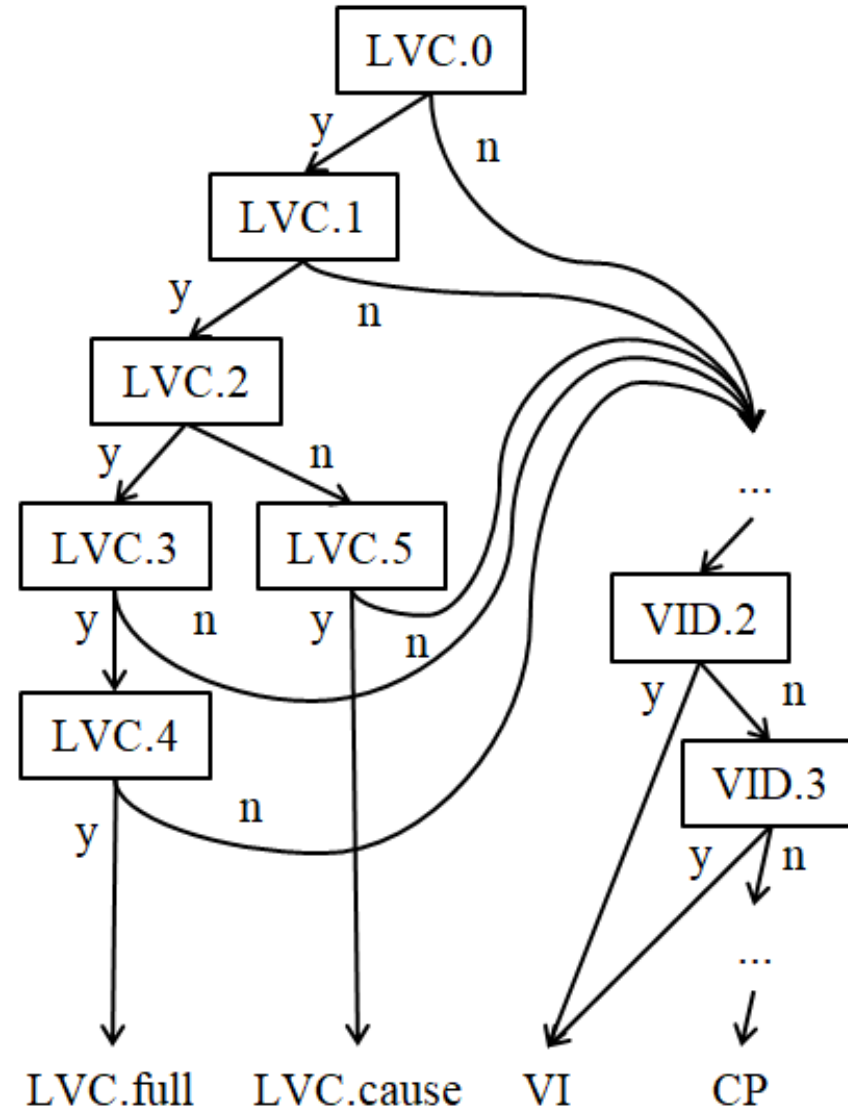
LVC.0: is the noun abstract?

LVC.1: is the noun predicative?

(...)

VID.2: regular replacement of a component ⇒
unexpected meaning shift?

VID.3: regular morphological change ⇒ unexpected
meaning shift?



The background features a dark blue upper section and a teal lower section. Large, overlapping white and light blue curved shapes are positioned on the right side, creating a modern, abstract design.

Classic aspectual variants of LVC

You got the habit of reading

Generally classified as CP by the PARSEME guidelines

But the constraints remind LVC

- Lexical constraints between the verb and the noun

have some colour

carry out a study

(fr) *tomber en panne*

(lit. 'fall into breakdown')

(fr) *entrer en conflit*

(lit. 'enter into conflict')

**carry out some colour*

have a study

**entrer en panne*

(lit. 'enter into breakdown')

**tomber en conflit*

(lit. 'fall into conflict')

- Number constraints

(fr) *Il a l'habitude de sortir et de jouer*

(lit. 'He has the habit of going out and playing')

(fr) **Il a les habitudes de sortir et de jouer*

(lit. 'He has the habits of going out and playing')

(fr) *Il a pris l'habitude de sortir et de jouer*

(lit. 'He took the habit of going out and playing')

(fr) **Il a pris les habitudes de sortir et de jouer*

(lit. 'He took the habits of going out and playing')

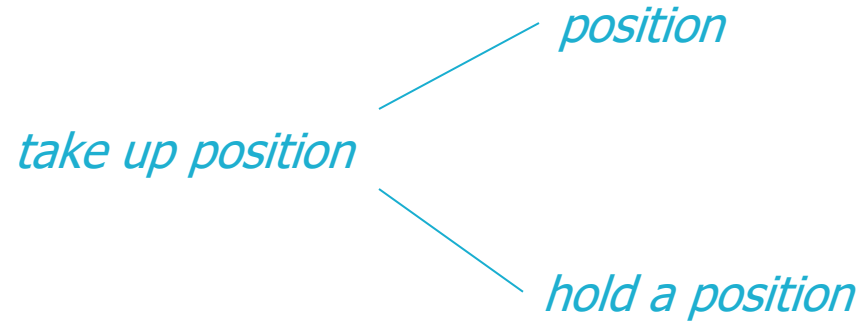
Aspectual variants of LVC could be considered as a category of LVC (Machonis, 1988;

Fotopoulou, 1992)

Cf. causal LVC in the PARSEME guidelines

Judging the meaning added by the verb

Test LVC.3: does the verb only add meaning expressed as morphological features?



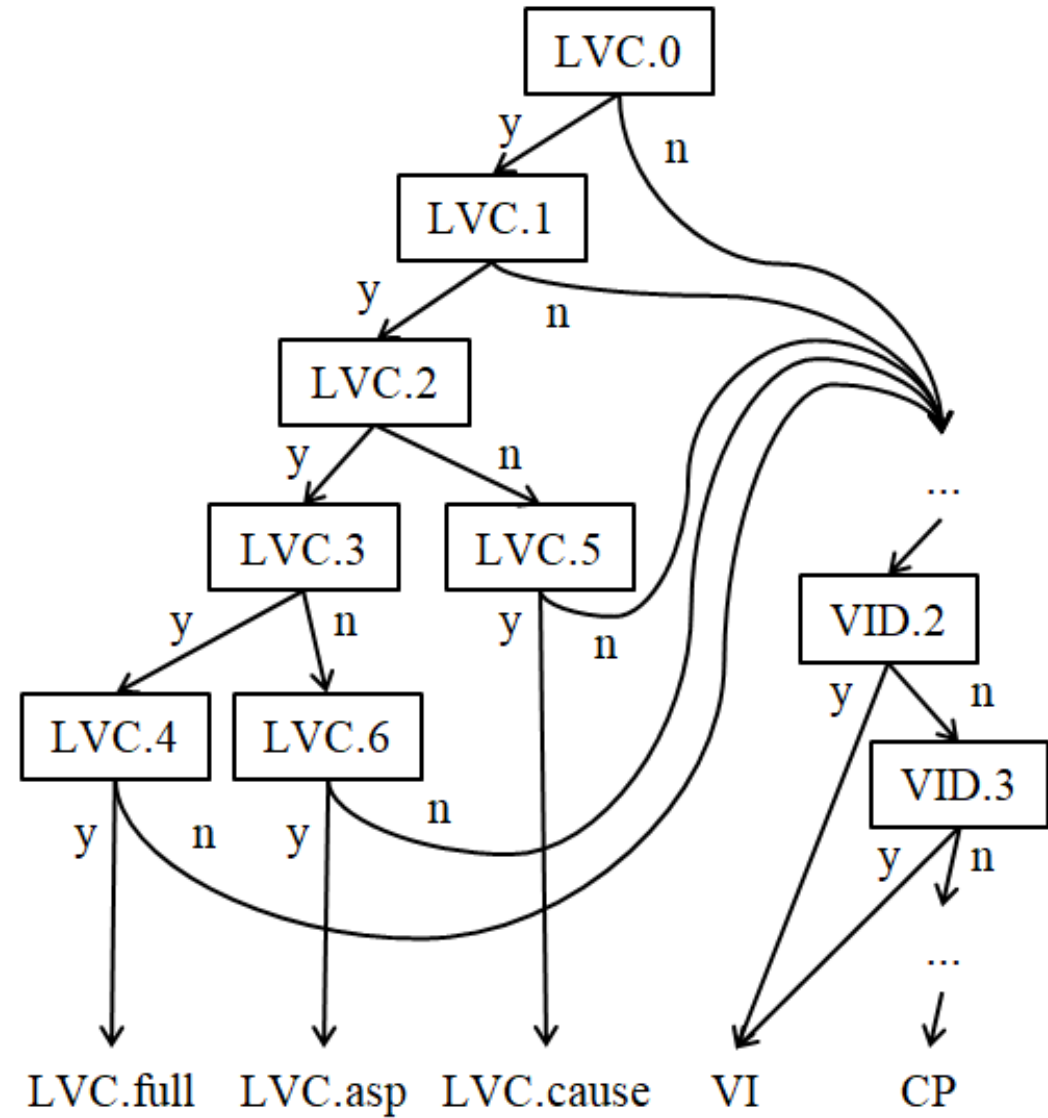
Osburn takes up position in Thulin

Osburn holds a position in Thulin

Each term of the comparison has a precise sense
The difference between them is minimal

Expanding the PARSEME decision tree

LVC.6: does the verb only add aspectual meaning?





Aspectual variants of prepositional-phrase idioms

Characterizing aspectual variants of prepositional-phrase idioms

The fisheries agreement came into force in June

The idiomatic meaning requires the preposition

** the force of the fisheries agreement*

The idiomatic meaning does not require the aspectual verb

the fisheries agreement in force

The non-compositional prepositional phrase satisfies the same criteria as the noun predicate in a LVC:

- abstract
- predicative
- the subject of the verb is a semantic argument of the predicate

Change of state: 'beginning', a matter of aspect

The aspectual element of meaning is conveyed by the verb *come*

The fisheries agreement came into force in June

Generally classified as CP by the PARSEME guidelines

But the constraints remind LVC

- Lexical constraints between aspectual verb and predicate

have some colour
carry out a study

**carry out some colour*
have a study

(fr) *tomber entre les mains*
(lit. 'fall into the hands')
(fr) *entrer en vigueur*
(lit. 'enter into vigour')

**entrer entre les mains*
(lit. 'enter into the hands')
**tomber en vigueur*
(lit. 'fall into vigour')

- Many phrases share these aspectual verbs

(fr) *entrer en application*
(lit. 'enter into application')
(fr) *entrer dans une impasse*
(lit. 'enter into a deadlock')

(fr) *entrer en jeu*
(lit. 'enter into play')
(fr) *entrer en service*
(lit. 'enter into service')

The verb should not be considered as a part of the idiom (Machonis, 1988)

Judging the meaning added by the verb

Test LVC.3: does the verb only add meaning expressed as morphological features?



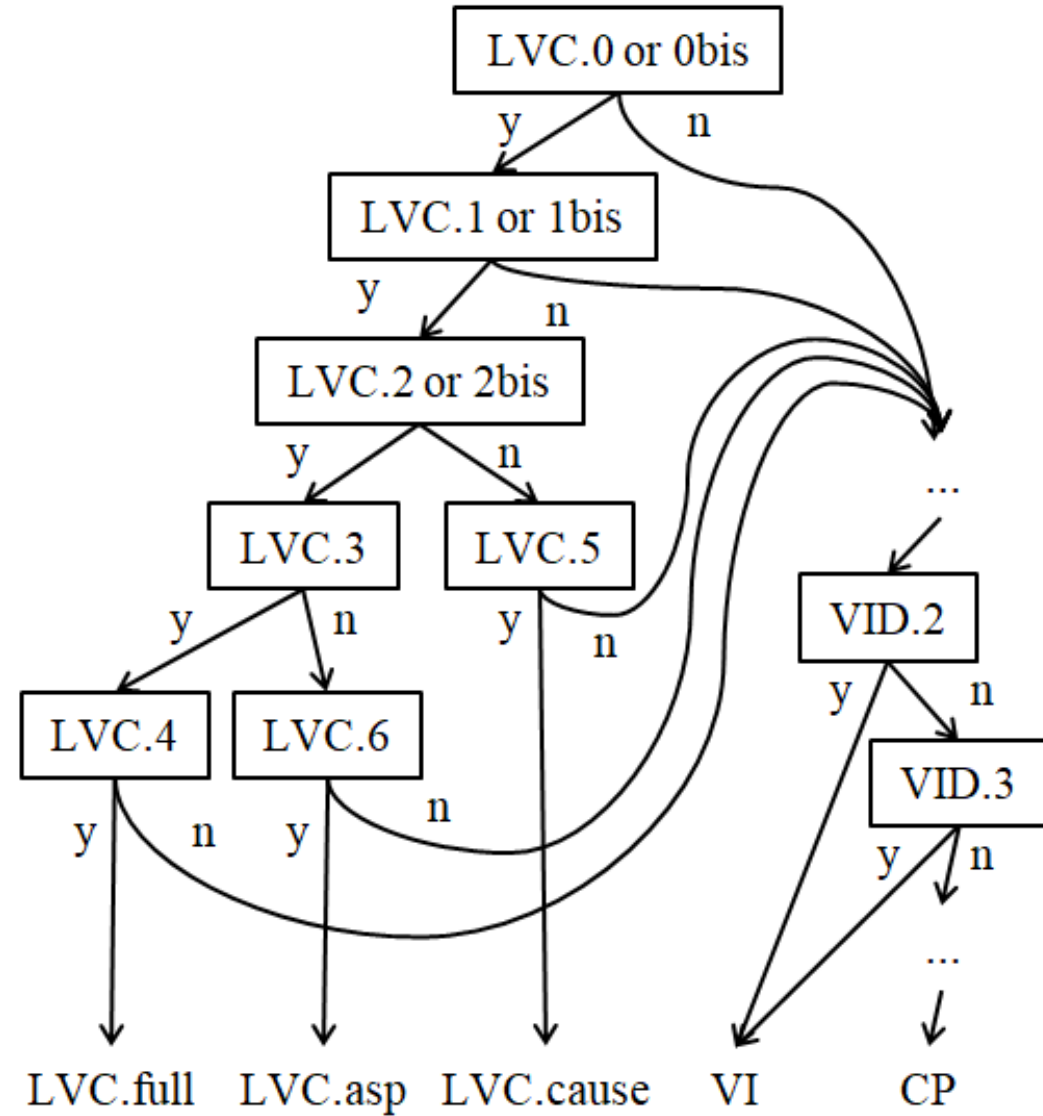
The agreement comes into force in June

The agreement is in force in June

The phrase with *be* could be considered as a LVC (Ranchhod, 1983; Cattell, 1984)

Expanding the PARSEME decision tree

- LVC.0bis: is the non-compositional PP abstract?
- LVC.1bis: is the non-compositional PP predicative?
- LVC.2bis: is the subject of the verb a semantic argument of the non-compositional PP?



Conclusion

Computational linguists' interest for LVC has remained mainly limited to prototypical cases

You have the habit of reading

Other types of LVC are relevant to applications

Aspectual variants

You got the habit of reading

Non-compositional PP compatible with a copula (*be*)

The agreement is in force
the agreement in force
The agreement comes into force

Eric Laporte

eric.laporte@univ-paris-est.fr

+33 1 60 95 75 52

