



HOW CAN FINNISH OBJECT MARKING BE CAPTURED IN ROLE AND REFERENCE GRAMMAR?

RRG = SEMANTICALLY DRIVEN SYNTACTIC THEORY

ANALYSIS

Partitive vs. Accusative

1) Ammu-i-n karhu-n
Shoot-PST-ISG bear-ACC
„I shot the bear (dead)”
active accomplishment [+telic]

2) Ammu-i-n karhu-a
Shoot-PST-ISG bear-PART
„I shot at the bear”
activity [-telic]

[-telic] → partitive
[+telic] → accusative

3) Saa-n karhu-t
Get-PRS.ISG bear-ACC.PL
„I'll get the bears”

4) Saa-n karhu-j-a
Get-PRS.ISG bear-PL-PART
„I'll get bears”

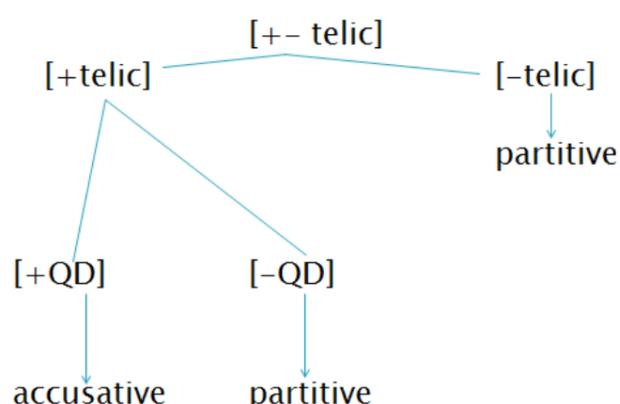
5) Saa-n karhu-n
Get-PRS.ISG bear-ACC
„I'll get the/a bear”

Quant. determinate	→	ACC
Quant. indeterminate	→	PART

Ambiguities: 3 readings

Ammuin karhuja
Ammu-i-n karhu-j-a
Shoot-PST-ISG bear-PL-PART

Summary



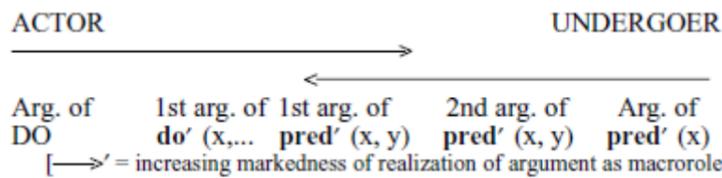
Basis = lexical decomposition

State:	[+ static], [- dynamic], [- telic], [- punctual]
Activity:	[- static], [+ dynamic], [- telic], [- punctual]
Achievement:	[- static], [- dynamic], [+ telic], [+ punctual]
Semelfactive:	[- static], [± dynamic], [- telic], [+ punctual]
Accomplishment:	[- static], [- dynamic], [+ telic], [- punctual]
Active accomplishment:	[- static], [+ dynamic], [+ telic], [- punctual]

„Carl ate pizza“ **do'** (Carl, [**eat'** (Carl, pizza)])

„Chris ran to the park“ **do'** (Chris, [**run'** (Chris)]) & INGR **be-at'** (park, Chris)

2 overarching macroroles are selected according to a hierarchy



Highest-ranking MR becomes „privileged syntactic argument“ (≈subject)

The rock [ACT] broke the window [UND]

The lawyer [ACT] received the summons [UND]

Many tourists [ACT] saw the accident [UND]

The farmer [ACT] ate the potato [UND]

In case languages, cases are assigned on the basis of the hierarchy

Standard RRG Case Assignment Rules

A) Assign nominative case to the highest ranking macrorole argument (in terms of the AUH)

B) Assign accusative case to the other macrorole argument (in terms of the AUH)

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[+/- telic] in feature matrix determines case of „other“ macrorole argument +

Case substitution (≈Korean **case spreading**)

Chelswu-ka [NP] kan-ess-ta
Ch.-NOM [NP] go-PST-DECL
„Chelswu went to [NP]“

[NP]: san-ey
mountain-LOC

→ [-telic]

„Chelswu went towards the mountain“

[NP]: san-lul
mountain-ACC

→ [+telic]

„Chelswu went to the mountain“

Test: Add concessive clause „but he did not arrive“. If [NP]acc, then logical contradiction!

Revised RRG Case Assignment Rules for Finnish

A) Assign nominative case to the highest-ranking macrorole argument (in terms of the AUH)

B) Assign partitive case to the other macrorole argument if the verb is [-telic]. If the verb is [+telic], assign accusative by default unless if the conditions specified in C) apply. If so, apply rule C)

C) Replace case marking on the lowest-ranking macrorole argument with partitive case iff it is read as quantitatively indeterminate.