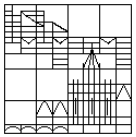

Implementing Argument Alternations III

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ESSLLI 2006, August, Malaga

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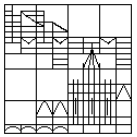

Applicatives/Morphology

Bantu: extra beneficiary argument licensed via morphology on the verb.

Ex: Sesotho (Demuth 1998)

(1) Thabo o-tla-pheh-a dijo
Thabo SM-Fut-cook food
'Thabo will cook some food'

(2) Thabo o-tla-pheh-**el**-a bana dijo
Thabo SM-Fut-cook-Appl children food
'Thabo will cook the children some food/food for the children.'

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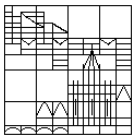

Applicatives/Morphology

Intuitively, the Applicative adds an argument.

How to Implement that? Previous Solutions :

Solution 1 (the Norwegian model)

Anticipate the fact that one could always have a Beneficiary Argument in the basic Subcat frame, delete via Lexical Rule if not needed.

(^PRED)='_P<(^SUBJ)(^BEN)>'

(^PRED)='_P<(^SUBJ)(^OBJ)(^BEN)>'

…

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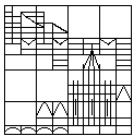

Applicatives/Morphology

Solution 2 (not implemented)

Have a Lexical Rule that goes from NULL to Beneficiary.

bene(_SUBCAT) =
_SUBCAT
NULL --> (^ BEN).

Solution 3 (implemented)

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Just have an extra template as one of the lists of templates (see German grammar).

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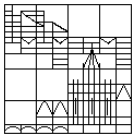

Applicatives/Morphology

Solution 1 is unsatisfactory anyway and doesn't extend naturally to Bantu (only need the Beneficiary when have Applicative Morphology).

Solution 3 tends to miss generalizations and does not do justice to applicative morphology.

Solution 2 makes more sense here - we can start having a theory about which argument to insert where...

Solution 4?

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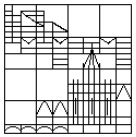

Applicatives/Morphology

Summary:

- Applicative Morphology licenses the addition of an extra argument.
- It makes little sense to try to blindly anticipate ahead of time ALL the Subcat frames of a verb (Solution 1).
- It is not trivial to add arguments to a Subcat frame.

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Complex Predicates

See Reader...

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