

A collection of links to thesauri, thesaurus software and classification systems on-line is now available at the web-site of the University of Applied Sciences, Cologne (Germany), Department of Library and Information Studies (<http://www.fbi.fh-koeln.de>). You may access it following this URL: http://www.fbi.fh-koeln.de/labor/bir/thesauri_new/index.htm The collection is browsable by languages and by subject areas. For the moment the descriptions are in German only, an English version, however, is under construction and will be announced when finished.

In Other News:

DIMDI has several new announcements: new features for grips-WebSearch include searching narrower terms (DOWN); new literature and patent database; DERWENT BIOTECH, a new literature and patent database; price reductions for MEDLINE and other NLM databases; and the ISTEP/ISSHP database is now available in English. For further information, visit the web site at: <http://dimdi.de>

Information Today, Inc. has just published a practical new how-to-book entitled "Finding Statistics Online: How To Locate the Elusive Numbers You Need." For more information, visit the web site at: <http://www.infotoday.com>.

Appointments:

The International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) named Stephen Parker as the new Executive Director. Mr. Parker is a British national and a Fellow of the British Library Association. He is Editor of the quarterly journal, Information Development, and author of several books and numerous reports, conference papers and articles on various aspects of information management and information development.

Institut de l'Information Scientifique et Technique du CNRS-Nancy (INIST) has appointed Alain Chanudet to the Director of INIST. Mr. Chanudet has a law degree from the University of Nancy.

Awards:

New Award for Best Article! The Haworth Press, Inc. and Cataloging & Classification Quarterly are pleased to announce the first annual "Best of Cataloging & Classification Quarterly Award." A \$500 prize will be awarded for the best article published in each entire volume of Cataloging & Classification Quarterly, beginning with Volume 26. The prize will be determined by an awards committee, to be announced at a later date. For information on the award or to submit an article, contact the Editor: Ruth C. Carter, Ph.D, MA, MLS, 121 Pikemont Dr. Wexford, PA, 15090-8447; e-mail: rcc13@vms.cis.pitt.edu

ARTICLE

A Contribution to the Study of the Semantics of French Psychological and Communication Verbs

By Mouna Kamel

1. Introduction

The aim of this work is to propose a description of the semantics of psychological verbs, verbs that express feelings, and communication verbs. By identifying sense components, by specifying sense elements which differentiate closely related verbs, and by studying sense variations, we found new criteria permitting the constitution of verbs semantic classes so as to better structure the lexicon and to better organize semantic descriptions.

In this paper, we first represent the verb semantics by means of the Lexical Conceptual Structure (LCS), adding, if necessary, new primitives and new semantic fields. We then study sense variations with the aim of making semantic descriptions more accurate, comprehensive and flexible.

2. Verb semantic classes

Different approaches to semantic classifications have been proposed, each of them contributing to a different form of classification, whose usefulness and ease of constitution answer to different needs.

There are different approaches to classify verbs semantically. B. Levin (Levin, 1993) proposed a classification based on syntactic criteria, called alternations which turn out to form classes with a certain semantic cohesion. But these alternations are specific to the English language, and cannot be used straightforwardly for other languages. Another approach, more oriented towards Natural Language Processing (NLP) applications and for French, is proposed in (St-Dizier, 1996). Syntactic criteria and thematic roles are used at the same time. Approaches based on ontological criteria assume that most, if not all lexical semantic relations, operate within quite precise semantic domains. In (Fellbaum, 1993), verbs are first divided into state verbs and action verbs, each of these groups is then further divided into subclasses, according to certain dimensions, properties or domains. In each family of verbs, a generic verb can be specified: *act*, *move*, *become*, *make*, *be*, ... One can consider that a generic verb corresponds to an LCS primitive. Jackendoff (Jackendoff, 1972) worked out semantic classes by putting together verbs whose arguments accept the same thematic roles. This method, though based on semantic criteria, has the disadvantage of grouping verbs without semantic resemblances.

Different studies of the semantics of psychological verbs have been made (Mathieu, 1995; Fellbaum 93; Sanfilippo, 1992). In (Mathieu, 1995), verbs are classi-