

Extra arguments in English

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This talk investigates a special class of English change-of-state verbs which exhibit unexpected linguistic behavior. The construction is called extra argument (ExArg) (Hole, 2006) because the surface subject is not the theme, as typically expected for unaccusatives, nor is it an external argument (1). Instead, the subject has a non-canonical thematic role, which would normally be a semantic adjunct: the location of the event. Additionally, in an alternation (2a), where the location is in a PP and the theme is the subject, not-at-issue meaning is apparent: a non-defeasible implication that the maximum change-of-state (COS) has been reached, whereas (2b)'s COS may be just partial. In this talk, I argue that both alternations have a localization entailment and that they differ in their not-at-issue meaning: the locative alternation has a conventional implicature (CI), conveying maximality, and ExArg does not. Following multidimensional proposals such as Potts (2005) and Gutzmann (2015), I model the localization entailment and the CI (with degree semantics) on two different dimensions.

- (1) a. The car (#deliberately) burst a tire.
b. The ship (#deliberately) tore a sail.

- (2) a. A sail tore on the ship #but the damage was minor/the sail is still usable.
b. The ship tore a sail but the damage was minor/the sail is still usable

References Gutzmann, D. (2015). *Use-Conditional Meaning. Studies in Multidimensional Semantics*. Oxford Studies in Semantics and Pragmatics 6. OUP. • Hole, D. (2006). Extra argumentality affectees, landmarks and voice. *Linguistics*, 44(2):383-424. • Potts, C. (2005). *The Logic of Conventional Implicatures*. OUP.