

Wilhelm Geuder and Ekaterina Gabrovska
(Heinrich-Heine-Universität)

Verbs and their modifiers: a pilot study on 'schlagen'

In this talk, we report ongoing work on a class of verbs that are usually said to denote "surface contact with a physical object via a forceful impact" (in the words of Levin 2015), and the modifiers that may appear with them. We start out from an analysis of the constructional variation and meaning variation of the German verb 'schlagen', also contrasting it with English 'hit'. In particular, we highlight varieties of agentivity or other subject roles, the nature of the 'affectedness' constraint that has been reported for the object of 'schlagen', and the relationship between path and target arguments. On the basis of the building blocks derived from this investigation, the implications can be discussed that this has for a frame representation of such verbs and their interaction with manner modifiers.