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Five dimensions of sentence description

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Five Dimensions of Sentence Description

David Thomas

I. Semantic Structures

A. Proposition types (deep structure) (using statement calculus)

nuclear types:

- Cause Sentence -- Cause-Event-Purpose
Since John was not feeling well, he went to
Dr. Jones because he wanted to be cured.
- Deductive Sentence -- Gen. Grounds-Spec. Grounds-Implication
Pale people are usually ill, and I see she
is pale, so she must be ill.
- Simple Statement Sentence -- Statement
It's raining
- Simile Sentence -- Comparison-Compared
As goes Maine, so goes the nation.
- Conditional Sentence -- Condition-Result
If I see her I'll be happy.

cases:

- Cause -- because John was sick
- Result -- so he went to Dr. Jones
- Purpose -- in order to get well
- General Grounds -- all men are mortal
- Specific Grounds -- Socrates is a man
- Logical Deduction -- therefore Socrates must be mortal
- Necessary Condition -- if I see her
- Comparison -- however high his temperature went
- Statement -- It's raining

compounding:

- Contrastive Compounding -- He came but didn't stay.
- Equivalent Compounding -- She was angry; she was utterly furious.
- Alternative Compounding -- Either he comes here or he gets fired.
- Additive Compounding -- I will light the fire and open the can.

peripheral elements:

- Time -- at the beginning of March
- Location -- at the place where Bill walked
- Concurrent Circumstances -- while Johnny was playing outside

B. Modalities (performatives, modes) (using increment calculus?)

- Declarative -- John went to town.
- Emphatic Declarative -- It's a fact that John went to town.
- Yes/No Interrogative -- Did John go to town?

Sentence-completing Interrogative -- Why did John go to town?
 Clause-completing Interrogative -- Who went to town?
 Imperative -- Go to town!
 Exasperated Imperative -- For Pete's sake, go to town!
 Certainty -- Certainly John will go to town.
 Possibility -- Perhaps John may go to town.
 Uncertainty -- John may have gone to town.
 Surprise -- So John went to town!
 Exasperated Surprise -- For Pete's sake, John went to town!
 Hope -- John went to town, I trust.
 Assertion of Truth -- It's true that John went to town.
 Assertion of Falsehood -- It's false, John didn't go to town.
 Reporting -- He said John went to town (those are his words, not mine).
 (Rhetorical sentences use a mode contrary to what the linguistic
 or situational context calls for)

C. Semantic Prosodies

+Topicalization -- location of the point of assertion
 +Tense -- temporal setting and movement
 ±Emphasis -- John will go to town.
 ±Negation -- John won't go to town.

II. Surface Structures

A. Manifesting Transforms (surface structure) (using syntagmemes)

Simple -- John went quickly to the doctor.
 Complex -- John, who was sick, went quickly to the doctor.
 Conjunctive -- John was sick, so he quickly went to the doctor.
 Nominalizing -- The sick man, John, went quickly to the doctor.
 Correlative -- The sicker John felt, the quicker he went to the doctor.
 Final echo -- John went quickly to the doctor, he did.
 Subordinating -- Under the compulsion of his sickness, John went to the doctor.

B. Manifestation Prosodies

Intonation -- peaks, dips, contours
 Grammatical Completeness -- full, elliptical
 Phonological Completeness -- continuous, interrupted, speaker shift.
 fragmentary