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Five dimensions of sentence description

David Thomas
SIL-UND

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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.

Pale people are usually ill, and I see she is pale, so she must be ill.

Simple Statement Sentence -- Statement
It's raining

Smile 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?

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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