

**Developing a Japanese Corpus Annotated for  
“Frames” and their “Elements”  
–Specifying What People Understand with MSFA–**

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# Today's Topic

- Introducing *Multi-layered/dimensional Semantic Frame Analysis* (MSFA: Kuroda and Isahara 2005)
  - It was developed as an annotation scheme hopefully compatible with *Berkeley FrameNet* (henceforth, BFN) (Baker, et al. 1998; Fillmore, et al. 2003; Johnson and Fillmore 2001; Lowe, et al. 1997)
- Caveats:
  - So far, MSFA has been done for Japanese: just a few sample analyses were attempted for English.
  - MSFA requires, *by its very design*, an annotator/analyst to specify *a lot of knowledge hard to access for non-native speakers*.



# Omitted Topics

- MSFA is coupled with a theoretical framework called *Frame-Oriented Concept Analysis of Language* (FOCAL: Kuroda, et al. 2005; Nakamoto, et al. 2005).
  - Competitive Theory of Frame Selection (Kuroda et al. 2006, presented at DGfS) is a product of FOCAL
- But we don't have enough time to talk about FOCAL today.



# Overview

- Giving some background
  - Especially why frame definitions and the annotation scheme of *Berkeley FrameNet* (BFN: Fillmore et al. 2003) were not used so far
  - Supplement it with a competitive theory of frame selection
- Presenting sample MSFAs
  - Explain how MSFA goes
  - Try to show what issues BFN will face when full-text analysis/annotation is seriously attempted.
- Summary



# How to Annotate Japanese Texts for Semantic Roles with MSFA



# Where Does MSFA Come from?

- When Kow Kuroda came to know about the BFN approach to semantic annotation (Johnson and Fillmore 2001; Pinkal et al. 2003) at ACL 2003, he found it really exciting, and wanted to try out the same thing for Japanese text analysis.
- But he faced some difficulties



# Major Obstacles

- The following are major obstacles:
  1. At that time, the *coverage* of BFN database wasn't broad enough, and as much fine-grained as he needed.
  2. What's worse, if we decide to go with BFN frames,
    - A. good understanding of English is required (for both the staff and annotators); this is too selective.
    - B. There will be little chance to link annotation to entries in Japanese thesauri (e.g., *Nihongo Goi-taikei* (A (Comprehensive) Japanese Lexicon))
- While issue 1 is improved greatly in last two years, issue 2 is still a problem.



# Decisions Made Two Years Ago

- To annotate Japanese texts for *deep enough* semantics is our objective. So, we decided
  - not to go along with BFN frames
  - to develop our own *scheme* for semantic annotation/analysis such that
    - it is applicable to *given* Japanese sentences
    - it provides *deep enough* semantic analysis useful for research in *Cognitive Science of Meaning*
- The following are not our goals *per se*:
  - develop NLP applications like MT, QA system, IR
  - construct a frame database as an “extended lexicon”



# Why Semantic Annotation?

- We need annotation/analysis of deep enough semantics to provide the “infrastructure” for *cognitive science of meaning*.
  - Our research is not seriously oriented for NLP tasks, even if there should be no incompatibilities.
- Rather, we addressed the following explorations:
  - Given a sentence  $s$ , *what kinds of frames* are needed if we wanted to achieve a “psychologically real” description  $d$  of what (average) people understand when  $s$  is heard or read?
  - and *how frames* are “put together” in description  $d$ ?



# Far from Trivial Matters

- How to deal with metaphor, metonymy, and other sorts of “figures of speech”
- How to break a sentence into “meaningful units”
  - How to deal with frame-evocation by complex, often discontinuous units?
- How to deal with anaphora?
- How to treat topic marker: is it part of a FE or not?



# **Short (and Hopefully Gentle) Introduction to FrameNet**



# What Is a (Semantic) Frame?

- A (semantic) “frame” is
  - an organization of “frame elements” (FEs), i.e., situation-specific “semantic roles” in human mind/brain
  - that represents a schematization of situation, or a generalization over “events” (or “states”)
- Caveat:
  - Don’t confuse semantic roles in this sense with so-called “thematic roles,” or “deep cases” in the sense of Case Grammar (Fillmore 1968)



# Examples

1. <Predation>=<<Predator>, <Prey>, ...>

i. [Predator *A group of killer whales* ]

ii. [Predate.GOVENOR *attacked* ]

iii. [Prey *a humpback whale* ].

2. <Bank Robbery> = <<Robber>, <Bank>, <Weapons>>

i. [Robber *A group of masked men* ]

ii. [Rob.GOVERNOR *attacked* ]

iii. [Target *a bank branch in L.A.*].



# Hierarchies of Frames and Frame Elements

- <Predation> IS-A <Harm-Causation> = <<Harm-causer>, <Victim>>
  - <Predator> IS-A <Harm-Causer>
  - <Prey> IS-A <Victim>
- <Bank Robbery> IS-A <Robbery> IS-A <Attacking> IS-A <Harm-Causation>
  - <Attack> = <Assailant>, <Victim>
- <Attacking> IS-A <Intentionally\_act> (IS-A <Agentive\_act>)
  - <Bank Robber> IS-A <Robber> IS-A <Agent>



# Role-denoting Names

- Note
  - “robber,” “victim,” “predator,” and “prey” are all *role-denoting/specifying nouns*.
- But
  - “(a group of) killer whales,” “a humpback whale,” “(a group of) masked men,” and “a bank branch” are not; they are *entity-denoting/specifying nouns*.
- See Kuroda, Nakamoto and Isahara (2006), Gentner (2005), Gentner and Kurtz (2005) for relevant details.



# But the Story Isn't Over Yet

- Why is it that sentences 1 and 2 make sense, and 3 and 4 don't, unless they are “adjusted” (metaphorically or metonymically)?
  1. A group of *killer whales* attacked a humpback whale. [<Predation> situation]
  2. A group of *masked men* attacked a bank branch in L.A.. [<Bank Robbery> situation]
  3. A group of *killer whales* attacked a bank branch in L.A.. [<??> situation]
  4. A group of *masked men* attacked a humpback whale. [<??> situation]



# Samples of “Adjustment” by Semantic Accommodation

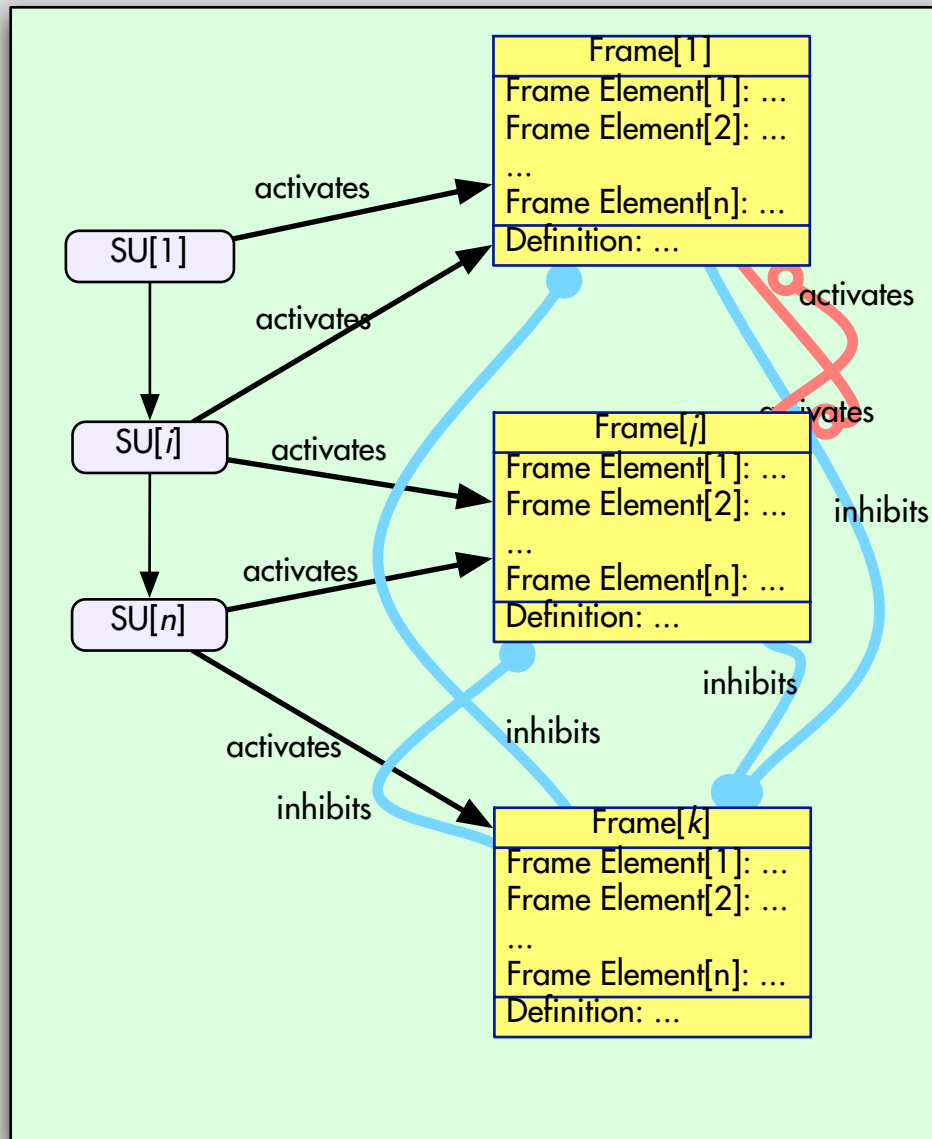
- Sentence 3 can mean a <Bank Robbery> if “killer whales” are understood as nicknames for robbers
- Sentence 3 can mean a <Predation> if “masked men” are understood, somehow, to mean a group of <Predator> (e.g., killer whales, sharks,)
- Sentence 4 can mean a <Predation> if “a bank branch” is understood, somehow, to be a nickname for a whale or something of being a <Prey>
- Sentence 4 can mean a <Bank Robbery> if “a humpback whale and her baby” are understood, somehow, to mean a <Bank>



**But How Come?**



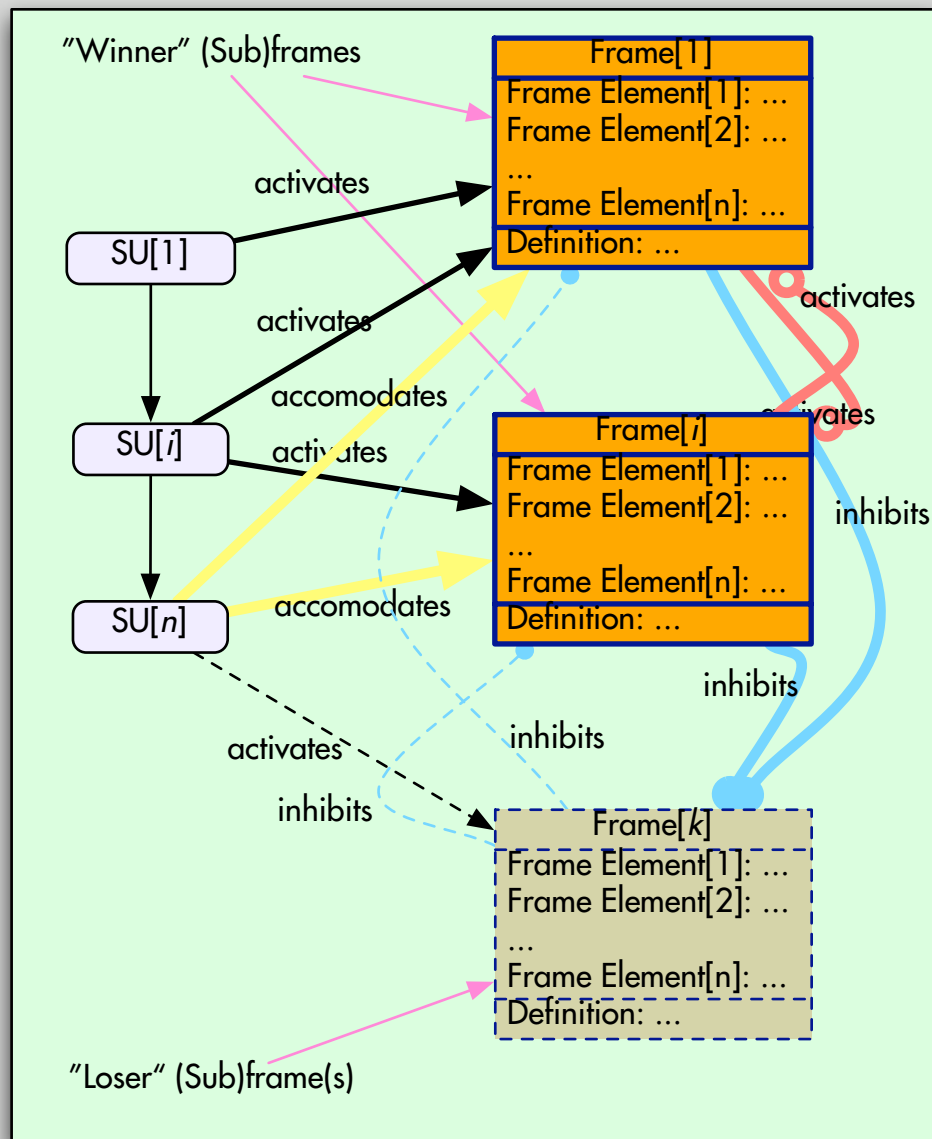
# Supplementing Frame Semantics with a Theory of “Frame Selection”



- Each semantic unit SU “activates” a set of frames independently.
- Evoked frames “compete” each other either by mutual “activation” or lateral “inhibition”
- Once competition settles down, the (meaning of) SUs of the “loser” frames “accommodate” to the (meanings of) “winner” frames



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# Supplementing Frame Semantics with a Theory of “Frame Selection”

- Given a sentence  $s = w_1 w_2 \cdots w_n$ ,
  - Each word  $w_i$  (or (possibly discontinuous) substring “...  $w_i$  ...  $w_j$  ...”) “evokes” a frame  $F_i$  independently each other, and “strengthen” or “suppress” each other.
- Competition among frames evoked takes place, and it “converges” when
  - the specifications of “loser” frames are adjusted to the specifications of the “winner” frames.
- This way, the set  $\mathcal{F} = \{F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n\}$  of evoked frames reduces into a smaller set of frames  $\mathcal{F}'$ .

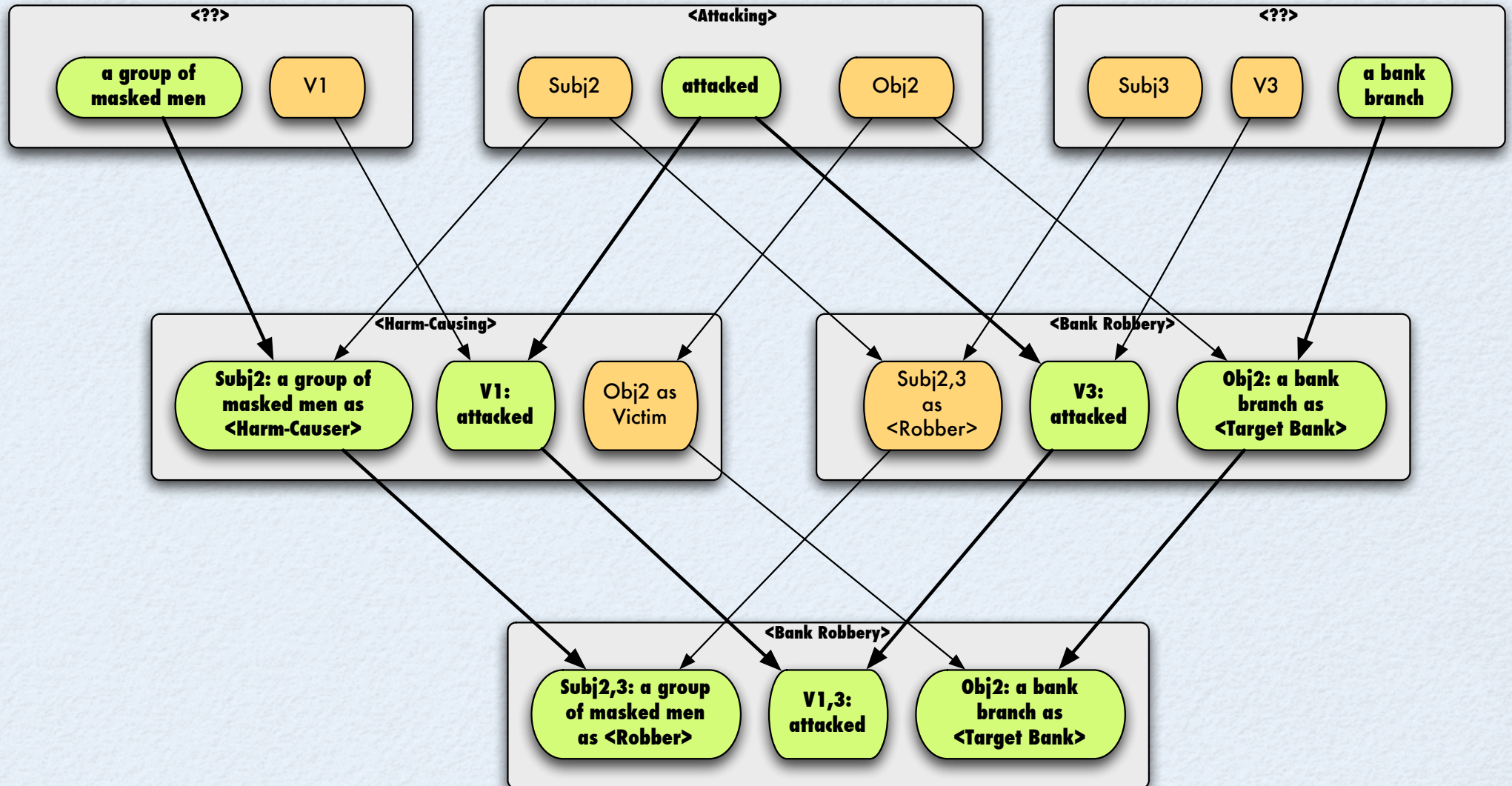


# Sample Analysis



# Frame Specification Flow of (2)

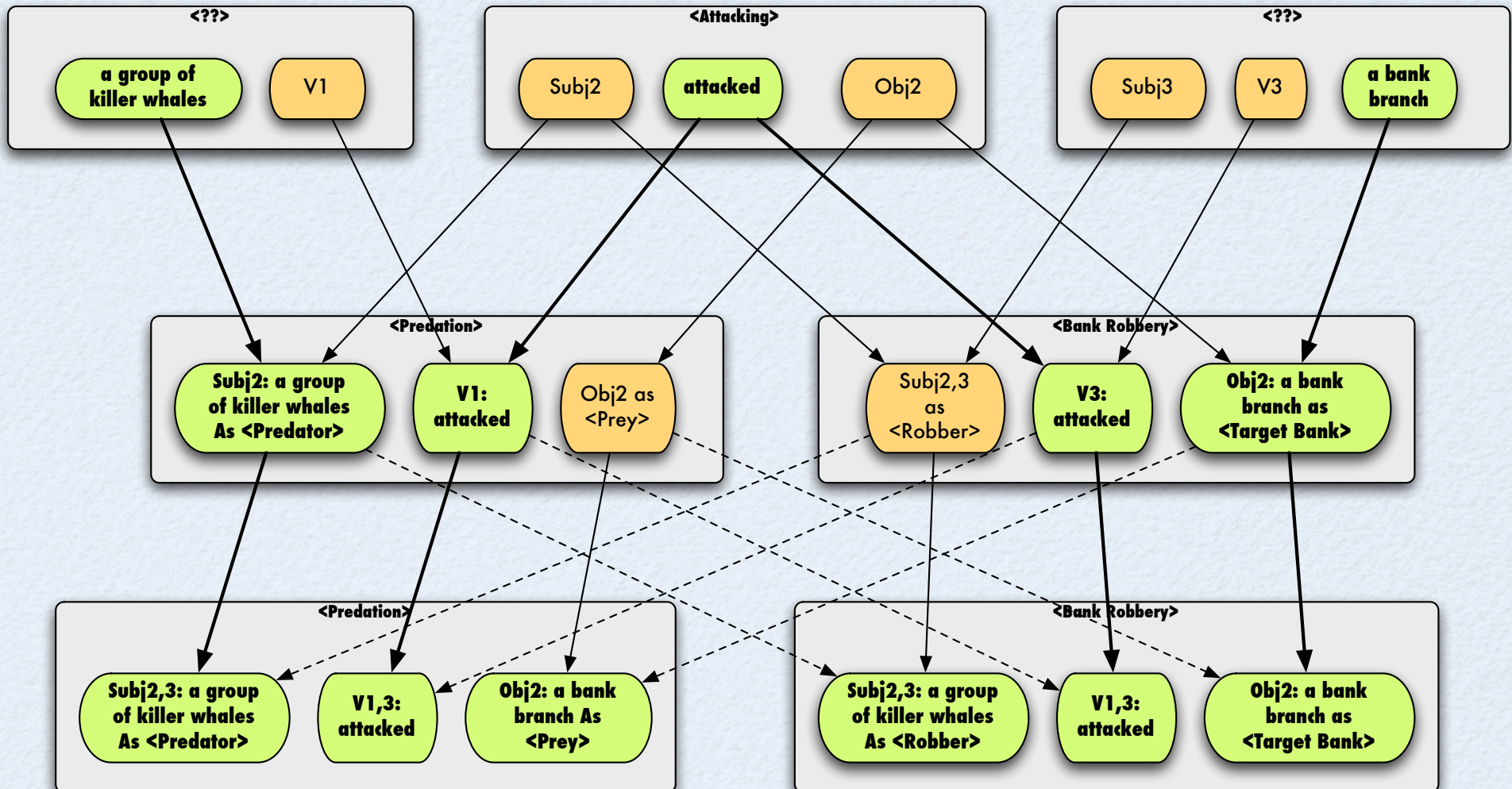
Feature Specification Flow





# Frame Specification Flow of (3)

Feature Specification Flow (Adjustments Required)





# Remarks

- Constituency plays virtually no role.
  - No effect from [NP [V NP]
- Frame specification flows, with and without bifurcation, should explain the “selectional restrictions” imposed on 1, 2, 3 and 4.
  - The origin of such restrictions are not really lexical one, as suggested by Fillmore in 70’s.



# Suggestion

- Complex units like the following are able to “evoke” finer-grained, specific frames:
  - “(a group of) killer whales attack ...”
  - “(a group of) masked men attacked ...”
  - “... attacked a bank branch ...”
  - “... attacked a humpback whale ...”
- Typically, this takes place when a role-denoting noun is combined with a verb.
- This fact needs to be considered in annotation tasks. MSFA does it.



# MSFA Procedure (Simplified)

1. Segment a sentences  $S$  into units  $U_1, \dots, U_n$ .
  - This is not independent from Step 2. So, you need to go cyclic.
  - Note incidentally that it's better NOT to try to build up larger units from smaller units. This tends to lead annotators to a “false” analysis.
2. For each  $U_i$ , find a set of frames  $F_1, \dots, F_m$  so that one of their “frame elements” is *realized* by  $U_i$ .
3. Specify relationships among all the frames.



# Guiding Principles of MSFA

- “Be meticulous”
  - Every word (or morpheme if morphological analysis is necessary) needs to realize at least one “frame element” of a frame.
  - You are not allowed to ignore a minor element by saying “its meaning is *uninteresting*.” If this “excuse” is allowed, your analysis will get arbitrary very soon.
- “Be greedy”
  - To every word, you need to assign as many semantic roles as possible if they are not incompatible



# **How MSFA Goes**

## **–Sample Analysis–**



# Sample MSFA

- The following is a text taken from *Kyoto University Corpus* (Kurohashi and Nagao 1994):
  1. 「ホワイトハウスの内側」という本が十四日、米  
国で発売される.
  2. 歴代大統領と関係者をこきおろしており、話題に  
なるのは間違いない.
  3. 「ワシントン・ポスト」紙などで長年、調査報道  
をしてきたロナルド・ケストラー氏の新著.
  4. 例えば次のような内容だ.
  5. ...



# Sample MSFA

- The English translations of the text:
  1. *A book titled “Inside the White House” will go on sale in the U.S. on January 14.*
  2. *The book will definitely be a much-talked-about, severely criticizing the past U.S. Presidents and their aides.*
  3. *The title came as latest work of Ronald Kesler, an expert reporter and investigator at the “Washington Post” and other media.*
  4. *The book, for instance, reveals the following episodes.*
  5. ...















# Remarks

- MSFA is used:
  - to identify and specify as many frames as possible; each column, with a “Frame ID” (local variable) and a “Frame Name” (global variable) specifies a frame
  - to specify explicitly how frames are interrelated using Frame-to-Frame Relations (global) on the second row
- Conventions
  - The relative order of columns is not significant.
  - “Null instantiations” are indicated by \* if they are position-neutral, and by \*\* if they are position-specific



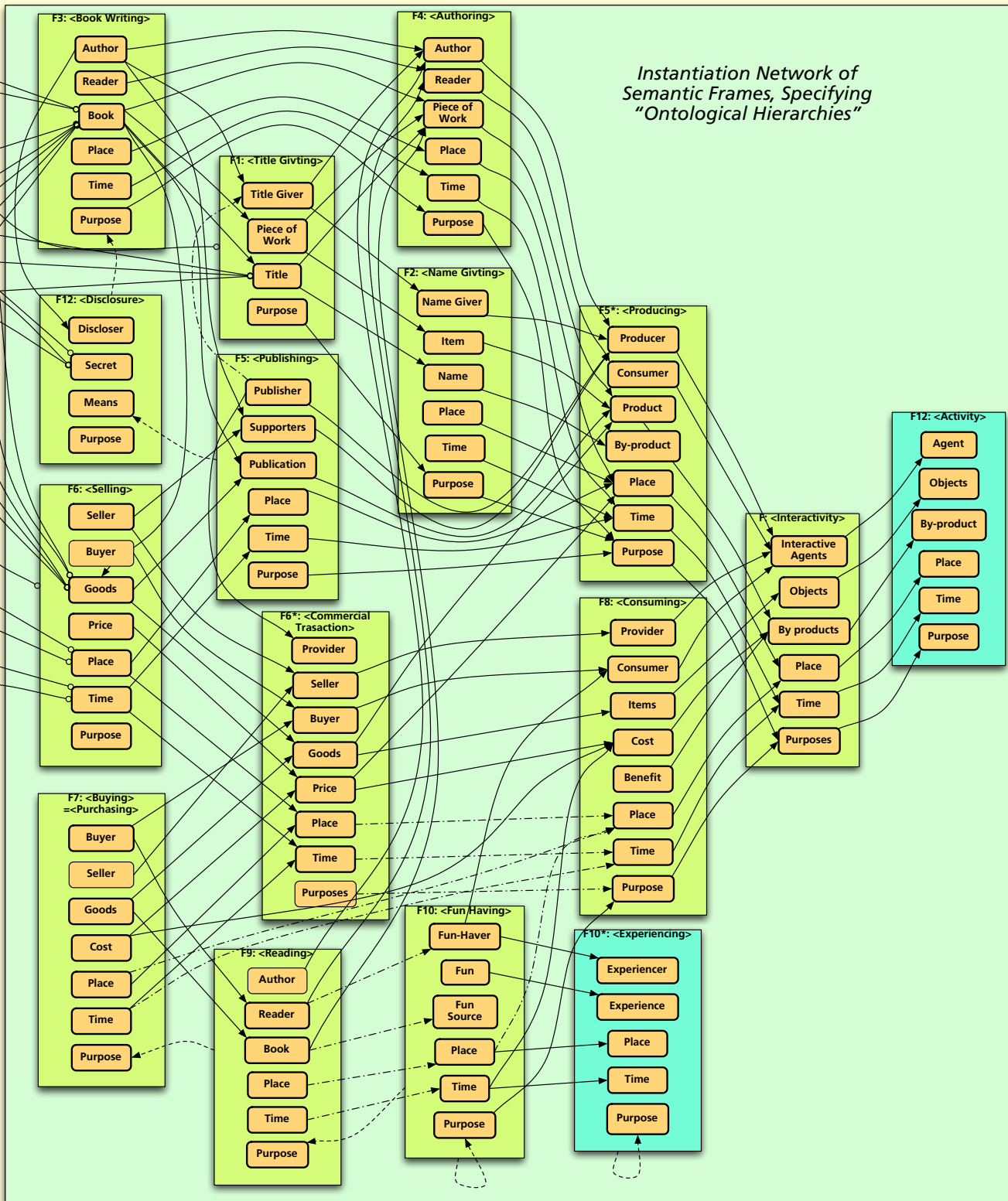
# What MSFA Does?

- MSFA above specifies, for example:
  - *Author*, as a role-denoting noun, designates an Agent-class role specific to <Authoring>.
  - *Writer*, as a role-denoting noun, designates an Agent-class role specific to <Writing>, a subclass of <Authoring>
  - etc
- This implicitly describes frame hierarchies and role/FE hierarchies like ...



*Instantiation Network of Semantic Frames, Specifying "Ontological Hierarchies"*

- Tokenization**
- a
  - book
  - title
  - d
  - "
  - The
  - Inside
  - White
  - Hose
  - "
  - will
  - go
  - on
  - sale
  - in
  - the
  - U.S.
  - on
  - January
  - 14
  - .



**U** — **F.R**

A unit U realizes a frame element F.R, i.e. semantic role R defined relative to F, thereby evoking frame F.

**F.R** → **G.R\***

A role F.R unconditionally elaborates/instantiates a more abstract role G.B\* (strong ontological implication)

**F.R** - - - **G.R\***

A role F.R conditionally elaborates/instantiates a more abstract role G.B\* (weak ontological implication)

**F** - - - **G.R**

A frame F realizes a role G.R Purpose or Means.



# Frame-to-Frame Relations

- The partial list of Frame-to-Frame relations we have defined so far is:
- “*F* elaborates *G*” ( deals with Inheritance, “Is-A”)
- “*F* constitutes *G*” (deals with “Part-Of” relation)
- “*F* presupposes *G*”, “*F* negates *G*” (deals with “implications”)
- “*F* motivates *G*” (can be used to specify <Reason>)
- “*F* realizes *G*” (can be used to specify <Purpose>)



# Benefits of Multilayered Analysis

- Multilayered analysis has its own benefits.
  - it allows us to explore the details of *frame-to-frame relations*
    - Full text analysis tells much more about them
  - it allows us to explore and specify *multiple, simultaneous role realization* by a lexical material.
  - it allows us to avoid *frame conflation*
    - this happens all the time
  - by disentangling a complicated relationship among frames evoked in a sentence



# Role Multiplex and Relativized Role

- In the following sentence, the role of 松葉づえ(で) is essentially ambiguous:

(1) 研究室で友人と話していると、そこに太郎が松葉づえで入ってきた。

- in that it realizes at least the following two roles simultaneous and inclusively:
  - R1: <歩行者> 「太郎」 にとっての<歩行の道具> IS-A <Instrument>
  - R2: 観察者 (語り手とその友人にとっての<出現の際の様態> IS-A <Manner>

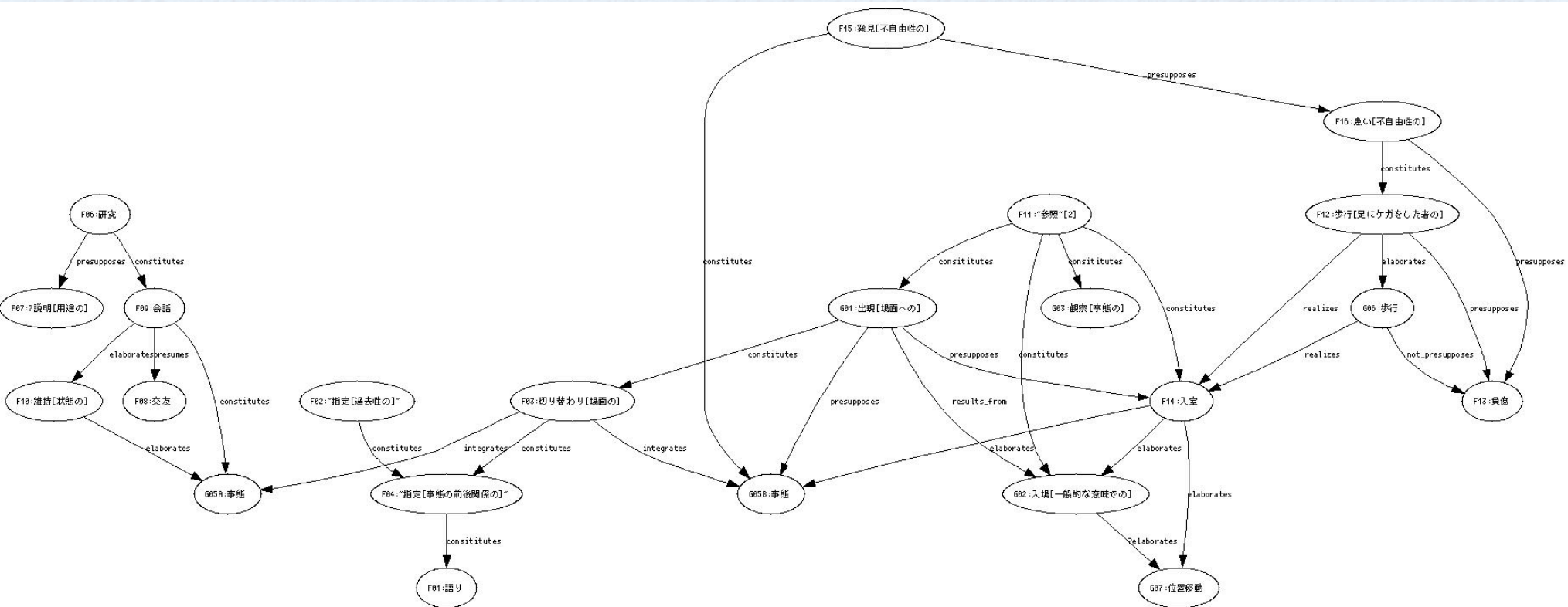


# 例文(1)のMSFA

Frame ID (Local)	F01	F02	F04	F03	G05a	G05b	F06	F07	F09	F10	F08	F11	F11	G01	G03	F14	G02	G07	F12	G06	F13	F15	F16																							
Frame-to-Frame Relations (Global)		constitutes F04	constitutes F01	constitutes F04; integrates G05a,G05b			presupposes F07; constitutes F09		presumes F08; elaborates F10; constitutes G05a	elaborates G05a		constitutes F14,G02	constitutes G01,G03	constitutes F03; presupposes F14,G05b; results_from G02		elaborates G02,G05b,G07	?elaborates G07		presupposes F13; realizes F14; elaborates G06	not_presupposes F13; realizes F14		presupposes F16; constitutes G05b	presupposes F13; constitutes F12																							
Frame Name (Global)	語り	~指定[過去の]~	~指定[事態の前後関係の]~	切り替わり[場面の]	事態	事態	研究	?説明[用途の]	会話	維持[状態の]	交友	~参照~[1]	~参照~[2]	出現[場面への]	観察[事態の]	入室	入場[一般的な意味での]	位置移動	歩行[足にケガをした人の]	歩行	負傷	発見[不自由性の]	患い[不自由性の]																							
*	聞き手																																													
*	語り手	指定者	指定者	場面[1]	参与者[1]		研究者 [potential] [1]	利用者[1]	参加者[1]	維持者[1]	交友者[1]	参照者	参照者	観察者[1]	観察者[1]							知覚者[1]																								
研究	内容	事態	事態[1]	場面[1]	場所	GOVERNOR	目的[利用の]	場所	場所	場所	参照先	参照先	観察者 [1,2].Attr[1,2]	観察者 [1,2].Attr[1,2]																																
室で																								MARKER		MARKER	MARKER	MARKER																		
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と																								MARKER			MARKER	MARKER								観察者 [1,2].Attr[2,2]	観察者 [1,2].Attr[2,2]									
話している																																														
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そこ																																														
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太郎																														研究者 [potential] [3]	利用者[3]			相手 [potentila]			出現者	事態	入室者	入場者	位置移動者	歩行者	歩行者	負傷者	不自由者	?患者
が														MARKER	MARKER	MARKER	MARKER	MARKER	MARKER	MARKER	MARKER	MARKER	MARKER																							
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入っ														EVOKER	EVOKER	GOVERNOR	GOVERNOR	EVOKER	EVOKER	EVOKER			不自由性を伴う行動	不自由性を伴う行動																						
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# Network of Frames



<http://www.kotonoba.net/~mutiyama/cgi-bin/hiki/hiki.cgi?c=view&p=msfa-matsubadzue-DE>







# Web Sites that Host MSFA Samples

- FOCAL Hiki Site 1

- <http://www.kotonoba.net/~mutiyama/cgi-bin/hiki/hiki.cgi?FrontPage>
- Unrestricted access to MSFA-based sample annotation of copyright-free J-E translations

- FOCAL Hiki Site 2

- <http://www.kotonoba.net/~mutiyama/cgi-bin/hiki2/hiki.cgi?FrontPage>
- Restricted access (you need an account) to MSFA-based sample annotation of J-E newspaper article alignment data.



# Dealing with Multiplicity



# WSD Needs to Be Done Frame-wise

- A single “entity” referred to in a text is likely to *realize different frame elements frame-wise simultaneously*.
- For instance, *book* in the previous example realizes:
  - <Information Carrier> FE in <Reading> frame
  - <Goods> FE in <Selling/Buying> frame
  - <Piece of Work> FE in <Writing> frame
  - <Publication> FE in <Publishing> frame
- This means that word sense disambiguation *needs to be done frame-wise*, explaining why WSD isn't enough for text understanding.



# How to Deal with “Markers”?

- Multiple, simultaneous realization of a set of FEs poses the following problem:
  - How to treat prepositions in languages like English and postpositions in languages like Japanese?
- This boils down to the following question:
  - Are prepositions or particles really *parts* of FEs, or just *markers* of them?
- We adopted the idea that markers can be (and need to be) separated from FEs themselves to facilitate encoding of multiple role realization.



**For Future**



# Current Status

- So far, MSFA was applied to
  - a portion of copyright-free Japanese-English alignment data (67 sentences), open data
  - a tiny portion of *Kyoto University Corpus* (KUC) texts (3 articles, 63 sentences); semi-closed data
- Characteristics
  - MSFA assigns a sentence 20-30 frames on average (depending on the length)
  - 2157 frames (=927+1227: type count), 6846 frame elements (=3031+3815: type count) are recognized
  - But no evaluation is done yet.



# What Should We Do Next?

- Our own frame definitions need to be linked to BFN ones. But, at the time being, it seems to be unrealistic to establish a mapping between BFN frames and the frames we defined with MSFA
  - granularity difference matters
- But it would be useful if we try to *share an annotation scheme* to facilitate such mappings in the future, and we want to try out best to do it.
- Putting aside the granularity issue, the major problem is with the treatment of markers like prepositions and postpositions.



**Thank You**



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