

Why do we need sentence patterns as a theoretical construct?

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Abstract

In my presentation, I will claim that argument-structure constructions and information-structure constructions are not powerful enough to account for the full range of sentences of a language. To give such a complete account, we need also sentential-syntax constructions (= sentence patterns).

I will demonstrate my point on existential sentences (*There is/appeared a bird on my window sill*) and evaluative sentences (*It is good to be here*) using mainly examples from English.

Biographical information

Ron Kuzar teaches linguistics at the Department of English Language and Literature, the University of Haifa. He works in two domains: (1) syntax of English and Hebrew, and (2) language and ideology. Besides articles in both domains, Kuzar published (2001) the book "Hebrew and Zionism: A Discourse Analytic Cultural Study" (Mouton de Gruyter).

Currently he is on a half-sabbatical in the Department of English and American Studies at LMU, working on a book provisionally entitled "Predicate-Initial Sentences in English and Hebrew".