

The Semantics of Multiplicative Adjectives in Polish

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The main aim of the paper is to propose a semantic analysis of Polish multiplicative adjectives such as *dwukrotny* ('two-time') in the spirit of Neo-Davidsonian frameworks (Carlson 1984, Dowty 1989, Parsons 1990). The *dwukrotny* is derivationally complex, i.e., it consists of a numeral root and the suffix *-krotny*, and occurs only in attributive position as in (1) *dwukrotny prezydent* ('two-time president') and (2) *dwukrotne morderstwo* ('two murders', lit. 'two-time murder'). Though syntactic objects modified by the multiplicative adjective in both (1) and (2) are NPs, semantically they differ, i.e., the predicate in (1) denotes a set of individuals and the predicate in (2) denotes a set of events. However, it is not the case that the multiplicative adjective in (1) quantifies over individuals. Rather, it targets an event created by a primitive predicate BECOME (cf. Rappaport Hovav & Levin 1998) introduced by the suffix *-krotny*. As a result, the numeral root in (1) counts events of acquiring a property by an individual, e.g., becoming a president, and hence cannot combine with predicates denoting properties which cannot be iteratively gained and lost by an entity, (3) *#dwukrotny mężczyzna* ('#two-time man'). On the other hand, in cases such as (2) the numeral root quantifies over beginnings of an event which is actually equivalent to the quantification over events.

Selected references

- Carlson, G. (1984). Thematic Roles and their Role in Semantic Interpretation. *Linguistics* 22: 259-279. • Dowty, D. (1989). On the Semantic Content of the Notion 'Thematic Role'. In B. Partee, G. Chierchia & R. Turner (eds.), *Properties, Types, and Meanings Vol II*. Kluwer. 69-130. • Parsons, T. (1990). *Events in the Semantics of English: A Study in Subatomic Semantics*. MIT Press. • Rappaport Hovav, M. & Levin, B. (1998) Building Verb Meanings. In M. Butt & W. Geuder (eds.), *The Projection of Arguments*. CSLI Publications. 97-134.