Debrecen University • Institute of English and American Studies • *Argument Structure* (BTAN5016MA)

Instructor	Marcel den Dikken, Research Institute for Linguistics (E-mail: marcel.den.dikken@nytud.hu)
Dates & times	Thursday 5 November 2020: 10:00–11:40, 13:00–14:40, 14:50–16:30
	Friday 6 & Saturday 7 November 2020: 9:00–10:40, 10:50–12:30, 14:00–15:40, 15:50–17:30

Description The aim of this three-day intensive minicourse is to introduce and discuss fundamental issues arising in connection with the projection of argument structure into syntax, with particular reference to the instructor's extant and ongoing work on the topic (by and large rooted in Den Dikken 2006, *Relators and Linkers*). Among the topics addressed in the course are the syntactic representation of predication relations (asymmetry, non-directionality, domain-insensitivity), the syntax of argument-structure changing operations (incl. the causative/inchoative alternation, the active/passive alternation, and the applicative), and the establishment of apparently non-local relations between predicates and their arguments ('clefting', 'raising', 'copy raising', '*tough*-movement'). The main focus throughout will be on empirical material from English, though occasional forays into other languages are made.

Requirements Students taking this course for credit will be expected to actively participate in the discussion in class (30% of the course credit), and to write a conference-style abstract based on a topic of their choosing related to any of the themes discussed in the course (70% of the credit).

Background A basic working knowledge of present-day generative syntactic theory will be presupposed.

Programme DAY 1: general introduction (the Projection Principle, the θ-Criterion, the Uniformity of Theta Assignment Hypothesis, the configurational mapping of thematic relations in syntax); the syntax of predication – asymmetry, non-directionality, domain-insensitivity; canonical and reverse predication; predicate inversion and the syntax of copular elements; predication in the complex noun phrase

DAY 2: argument structure alternations – esp. causative/inchoative alternation (*My fingers froze from the cold ~ The cold froze my fingers*), active/passive alternation (*The government froze the funding ~ The funding was frozen by the government*), the middle voice (*Funding freezes easily*), dative/applicative alternation (*She froze a popsicle for me ~ She froze me a popsicle*); the syntax of the 'Agent-of' and 'Theme-of' relations

DAY 3: apparently non-local relations between predicates and their arguments, and the involvement of movement – cleft and pseudo-cleft constructions (*It was the funding that the government froze*, *What the government froze was the funding*), 'raising' and 'copy raising' (*The funding seems to be frozen*, *The funding seems like it is going to be frozen*), '*tough*-movement' (*Funding is easy to freeze*)

Literature The literature on the syntactic representation of argument structure is huge. Rather than trying to give a representative survey of this literature, this course is aimed at painting as comprehensive a picture as possible of the syntax of argument structure from one particular point of view: the theory of predication relations laid out in Den Dikken (2006). In concert with this, the literature assigned for this course is focused on my own work on the topics covered. The titles assigned include plenty of references to other important work on these topics, which students are encouraged to explore in tandem with the proposals advanced in the assigned literature. For a general overview of the main issues in the linguistic representation of argument structure, argument structure alternations, the syntax of predication, and the syntactic projections of lexical categories, students are referred to the chapters from *The Cambridge Handbook of Generative Syntax* included in the bibliography on the next page.

Corver, N. 2013. Lexical categories and (extended) projection. In Den Dikken (ed.), 353–424.

Dikken, M. den. 2006. *Relators and linkers*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Dikken, M. den. 2013. Predication and specification in the syntax of cleft sentences. In K. Hartmann & T. Veenstra (eds), *Cleft structures*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 35–70.

Dikken, M. den (ed.). 2013. *The Cambridge handbook of generative syntax*. Cambridge: CUP.

Dikken, M. den. 2015. Raising the subject of the 'object-of' relation. In Á. Gallego & D. Ott (eds), *50 Years later: Reflections on Chomsky's* Aspects. *MIT Working Papers in Linguistics*. 85–98.

Dikken, M. den. 2017. Predication in the syntax of hyperraising and copy raising. *Acta Linguistica Academica* 64. 1–41. Open access at https://doi.org/10.1556/2062.2017.64.1.1

Dikken, M. den. 2018. Secondary predication and the distribution of raising to object. *Acta Linguistica Academica* 65. 87–117. Open access at https://doi.org/10.1556/2062.2018.65.1.5

Dikken, M. den. 2019. High and low applicatives of unaccusatives: Dependent case and the phase. Ms., ELTE & Research Institute for Linguistics.

Dikken, M. den & É. Dékány. 2019. Passives that look like causatives – Causatives that read like passives. CAUS+SE=PASS. Paper presented at SinFonIJA12, Brno; ms., Research Institute for Linguistics.

Heycock, C. 2013. The syntax of predication. In Den Dikken (ed.), 322–52.

Mulder, R. & M. den Dikken. 1992. Tough parasitic gaps. *Proceedings of NELS 22*. Amherst: GLSA.

Ramchand, G. 2013. Argument structure and argument structure alternations. In Den Dikken (ed.), 265–321.

Resenes, M. & M. den Dikken. 2012. Semi-clefts as a window on the syntax of predication and the 'object of' relation. In *Proceedings of CLS 48*. Chicago Linguistics Society.

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