

# Disambiguation of Polysemous Verbs for Rule-based Inferencing

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## Abstract

We present an approach to disambiguating verb senses which differ w.r.t. the inferences they allow. It combines standard ontological tools and formalisms with a formal semantic analysis and is hence more formalised and more detailed than existing lexical semantic resources like WordNet and FrameNet [Fellbaum, 1998, Baker et al., 1998]. The resource presented here implements formal semantic descriptions of verbs in the Web Ontology Language (OWL) and exploits its reasoning potential based on Description Logics (DL) for the disambiguation of verbs in context, since before the correct sense of a verb can be reliably determined, its syntactic arguments have to be disambiguated first. We present details on this process, which is based on a mapping from the French EuroWordNet [Vossen, 1998] to SUMO [Niles and Pease, 2003]. Moreover, we focus on the selectional restrictions of verbs w.r.t. the ontological type of their arguments, as well as their representation as necessary and sufficient conditions in the TBox. After a DL reasoner has identified the verb sense on the basis of these conditions, we make use of the more expressive Semantic Web Rule Language to calculate the inferences that are permitted on the selected interpretation.

## 1 Introduction

Verbs raise a number of challenges for computational linguistic applications, two of which will be addressed in this paper. Firstly, a lot of them are highly polysemous, which makes a careful disambiguation a prerequisite for the application of semantic web technologies. As an example, the same French verb *encourager* is normally translated by three different verbs in German, as illustrated in (1)-(3):

- (1) Un terroriste a encouragé<sub>1</sub> ma voisine à poser une bombe dans la cave.  
*A terrorist has encouraged my neighbour to place a bomb in the basement.*  
*Ein Terrorist hat meine Nachbarin ermutigt, eine Bombe im Keller zu legen.*
- (2) La lettre a encouragé<sub>2</sub> ma voisine à poser une bombe dans la cave.  
*The letter has encouraged my neighbour to place a bomb in the basement.*  
*Der Brief hat meine Nachbarin dazu bewegt, eine Bombe im Keller zu legen.*
- (3) Le gouvernement a encouragé<sub>3</sub> la recherche sur les armes biologiques.  
*The government has encouraged research on biological weapons.*  
*Die Regierung hat die Erforschung biologischer Waffen angeregt.*

Note that (1) differs from (2) only by the ontological category of the subject, which is a human entity in (1) and a non-human<sup>1</sup> one in (2). On the other hand, (3) differs from the previous two in that its object is a non-human entity (while the object denotes a human in (1) and (2)), and in that it does not take an infinitival complement. The second challenge concerns the computation and the weighting of the inferences triggered by verbs. The contrast between (1) and (2) offers a striking example: while the interpreter of (2) can take for granted that a bomb was placed, it can only be *guessed* that it was possible in (1). It is crucial to note that subtle differences like these do exist in French, which is further exemplified by the fact that (1) can be continued by the sentence ..., *mais elle ne l'a pas fait*. ('..., but she [the neighbour] didn't do it. '), whereas (2) cannot (cf. Mari and Martin [2007]).

Following Bhatt [1999], let us call “actuality entailment” (AE) the entailment triggered by (2) – and to which the interpreter assigns the probability 1 – that an event satisfying the infinitival complement took place, and “weak inference” the one triggered by (1) – and to which the interpreter assigns a probability  $p$  between 0 and 1. Furthermore, we will say that when the AE is triggered, the verb instantiates its “implicative reading”.<sup>2</sup>

Note that the presence of the non-human subject in (2) is only a necessary condition to trigger the AE (and consequently the implicative reading). For the AE to arise, the *tense* of the sentence has to be of a certain kind as well (i.e. a perfective tense, e.g. the *passé composé* in French). The interaction between lexical semantics and information pertaining to the textual level like tense and aspect must then be modelled appropriately to capture the facts.

<sup>1</sup>The fact that letters are generally written by humans is of no relevance here.

<sup>2</sup>The terminology is borrowed from [Karttunen, 1971]. Note however that verbs like *encourager* differ from what Karttunen originally calls “implicative verbs” (e.g. *réussir à*, ‘manage to’), because the latter trigger an AE with any kind of tenses.

A model which allows to identify and weigh appropriately the inferences triggered by verbs like *encourager* is highly desirable, since, first of all, verbs of the same class are pervasive in the lexicon and heavily present in official texts.<sup>3</sup> Secondly, rating accurately the inference that an event described by a constituent took place is central for text understanding and summarisation.

As it is more convenient to present the implementation through a specific reading of a polysemous verb, we will firstly detail the lexical semantics of a specific interpretation of the verb *encourager*, namely the one translated by the German verb (*zu etwas*) *bewegen* and selected in (2).

In (1) and (2), *encourager* is a psychological verb in that it denotes an action or a state likely to trigger a certain psychological change of state of the entity denoted by the object *y* (henceforth labelled “Experiencer”). This cannot be the case in (3), since a non-animate object (as *research*) cannot experience a psychological state or process. Rather, *encourager* denotes in (3) an action of the subject which is likely “to be good for the development of” the object. The evaluative component of this reading is the reason why we propose to call this reading the “axiological reading” of *encourager*.

Under the reading instantiated in (2), *encourager* is analysed here as meaning something like *to be in a state with the goal that y wants to P*, or, if *y* already has this desire, that *y* wants to *P* more than previously.  $Want(s, d, t, P)$  describes the state of wanting *P* at a degree *d* at a time *t*. *P* stands here for a three-place relation.

$$(4) \text{ encourager}_2 \Rightarrow \lambda s \lambda y \lambda x \lambda P [Theme(s, x) \wedge Target(s, y) \wedge Goal(s, P_2) \wedge P_2 = [\lambda s_1 \lambda d_1 \lambda t \exists d_2 \exists s_2 Want(s_1, d_1, P, t) \wedge Want(s_2, d_2, P, t_r) \wedge t > t_r \wedge d_2 > d_1 \wedge Experiencer(s_1, y) \wedge Experiencer(s_2, y)]]$$

**Plan of the paper.** Section 2 discusses the model, focussing on selectional restrictions and formalisation of inference rules. Section 3 shows how these are applied to (2) in order to disambiguate the verb and its arguments, and to calculate the inferences based on this selection. We conclude in Section 4 with the advantages of our approach over existing lexical resources.

## 2 Implementation of the Model

In the following, we will describe how we model the inference triggers just mentioned as well as semantic representations like the one in (4) using OWL

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<sup>3</sup>Examples of verbs displaying the alternation between (1) and (2) (thus triggering inferences of different strength in the two places) are *autoriser à P* ‘to authorize to *P*’, *aider à P*, ‘to help to *P*’, or *exiger que P*, ‘to demand that *P*’.

DL and the more expressive Semantic Web Rule Language (SWRL).<sup>4</sup>

## 2.1 Encoding of selectional argument restrictions

As mentioned above, the primary triggers for selecting one sense over another is the presence (or absence) of syntactic arguments as well as their ontological type. For example in (2), the fact that (i) *encourager* subcategorises an infinitive, (ii) the subject is inanimate, and (iii) the direct object is animate, determine the sense of *encourager* in this sentence. To make this information available and processable, we use a straightforward encoding of these triggers as conditions on class definitions (see also Franconi [2003]), based on concepts of the Suggested Upper Merged Ontology<sup>5</sup> (SUMO; Niles and Pease [2003]).

In particular, the different senses of a verb are modelled as subclasses of a general class that denotes an underspecified representation of the verb. However, the different verb senses do only subclass this generic representation in the lexicon, not in the concept hierarchy, since verb senses very frequently denote different concepts that are not subsumed by a common concept. In our concrete example, we assume 3 different senses of *encourager* in our lexicon, which differ w.r.t. to their axiomatic definition. (5) below shows the definition of the sense of *encourager* corresponding to the one in (2) above.

$$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} \textit{encourager2} &\equiv \textit{encourager} \\ &\exists \textit{obj}(\textit{Agent} \sqcup \textit{SocialRole}) \sqcap \forall \textit{obj}(\textit{Agent} \sqcup \textit{SocialRole}) \\ &\exists \textit{subj}(\neg \textit{Agent}) \sqcap \forall \textit{subj}(\neg \textit{Agent}) \\ &\geq 1 \textit{xcompPred owl:Thing} \end{aligned}$$

The first line of this definition states that *encourager2* is a subclass of the underspecified *encourager*. The subsequent line requires that there be values of the *obj* property which are either of type *Agent* or *SocialRole*, and further that all values of the *obj* property have to be within this set of *Agents* or *SocialRoles*. For capturing the inanimacy of the subject of *encourager*, the next line indicates that the values of the *subj* property may not be of type *Agent*, and finally, the last line says that the *xcompPred* property (i.e. the main predicate of the embedded infinitive) has to have at least one value.

The general motivation for this encoding, which views the contextual triggers discussed above as necessary and sufficient conditions, is that a

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<sup>4</sup>See <http://www.w3.org/TR/owl-ref/> and <http://www.w3.org/Submission/SWRL/>.

<sup>5</sup>The reasons for using SUMO classes will become evident in Section 3.1 below.

reasoner can infer – on the basis of a particular setting of contextual parameters (i.e. property values) – the specific type of an instance of the generic *encourager*. In the following, we will discuss the inference rules that are attached to each sense class, and which are evoked once a specific sense has been determined.

## 2.2 Inference rules

As was mentioned above, the different senses of *encourager* do not only differ w.r.t. to the necessary and sufficient conditions that are used to classify them, but also w.r.t. the inferences they allow. In our model, such inferences are encoded in the form of SWRL rules (see e.g. O’Connor et al. [2005]), as they require inference capacities which go beyond the scope of the inventory provided by OWL DL. The SWRL rule that corresponds to the semantic description of *encourager*<sub>2</sub> given in (4) is shown in Table 1 below, with the rule body in lines 1 to 8 and the rule head in lines 9 to 30.

The first line represents the configuration in which the rule applies, i.e. an instance of *encourager*<sub>2</sub> with grammatical subject and object. Lines 2 to 8 make use of the SWRL extensions built-ins<sup>6</sup> defined within the Protégé ontology editor [Knublauch et al., 2004] in order to create instances that are to be inserted into the representation, based on the analysis in (4). In lines 9 to 11, the grammatical subject is asserted as the theme of the state denoted by *encourager*, the grammatical object as target, and, as goal, the proposition that the degree of *y* wanting to “place a bomb” is now greater than it was at a previous point in time. The two “wanting” states that are part of this proposition (lines 12 and 13) are described in lines 14 to 17 and 18 to 21, where the “wanted” object corresponds to the embedded infinitive<sup>7</sup>. Lines 22 and 23 state that the previous degree of wanting is greater than the current one (note that the reference time *tr* is not a variable), and that the grammatical object *y* is the experiencer of both wanting states. Finally, lines 26 to 30 classify the remaining instances created in the rule body.

Although the rule appears to be quite specifically tailored to the particular use of *encourager*<sub>2</sub>, large parts of it can be re-used for senses of other verbs within this group of psychological verbs, while other parts can be parametrised to cover verbs of other groups. For example, the syntactic setting (cf. line 1) is applicable to any transitive verb, while the assignment

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<sup>6</sup>See <http://protege.cim3.net/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?SWRLExtensionsBuiltIns>; the built-in function `createOWLThing` has been replaced with `cOT` in the table.

<sup>7</sup>Note that the four-place predicate  $Want(s, d, P, t)$  in (4) has been decomposed into a sequence of two-place predicates indicating the degree, time, and object of the “wanting”.

|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 1  | syntactic configuration required for application of rule       | $\text{encourager2}(\text{?s}) \wedge$<br>$\text{subj}(\text{?s}, \text{?x}) \wedge \text{obj}(\text{?s}, \text{?y}) \wedge$ |
| 2  | create previous state of wanting                               | $\text{swrlx:cOT}(\text{?s1}, \text{?s}) \wedge$   |
| 3  | create current state of wanting                                | $\text{swrlx:cOT}(\text{?s2}, \text{?s}) \wedge$   |
| 4  | create proposition corresponding to embedded infinitive        | $\text{swrlx:cOT}(\text{?p}, \text{?s1}) \wedge$   |
| 5  | create the proposition that is the goal of <i>encourager</i>   | $\text{swrlx:cOT}(\text{?p2}, \text{?s}) \wedge$   |
| 6  | create previous degree of wanting                              | $\text{swrlx:cOT}(\text{?d1}, \text{?s1}) \wedge$  |
| 7  | create current degree of wanting                               | $\text{swrlx:cOT}(\text{?d2}, \text{?s2}) \wedge$  |
| 8  | create previous time   | $\text{swrlx:cOT}(\text{?t}, \text{?s})$   |
|    |  | $\rightarrow$  |
| 9  | assert grammatical subject as theme of <i>encourager</i>       | $\text{theme}(\text{?s}, \text{?x}) \wedge$  |
| 10 | assert grammatical object as target of <i>encourager</i>       | $\text{target}(\text{?s}, \text{?y}) \wedge$   |
| 11 | assert proposition as goal of <i>encourager</i>                | $\text{goal}(\text{?s}, \text{?p2}) \wedge$  |
| 12 | assert that previous state is part of the proposition          | $\text{hasPart}(\text{?p2}, \text{?s1}) \wedge$  |
| 13 | assert that current state is part of the proposition           | $\text{hasPart}(\text{?p2}, \text{?s2}) \wedge$  |
| 14 | assert previous state of wanting                               | $\text{WANTING}(\text{?s1}) \wedge$  |
| 15 | assert previous degree of wanting                              | $\text{degree}(\text{?s1}, \text{?d1}) \wedge$   |
| 16 | assert object of wanting                                       | $\text{object}(\text{?s1}, \text{?p}) \wedge$  |
| 17 | assert time of previous wanting                                | $\text{time}(\text{?s1}, \text{?t}) \wedge$  |
| 18 | assert current state of wanting                                | $\text{WANTING}(\text{?s2}) \wedge$  |
| 19 | assert current degree of wanting                               | $\text{degree}(\text{?s2}, \text{?d2}) \wedge$   |
| 20 | assert object of wanting                                       | $\text{object}(\text{?s2}, \text{?p}) \wedge$  |
| 21 | assert reference time as time current of wanting               | $\text{time}(\text{?s2}, \text{tr}) \wedge$  |
| 22 | assert that time of previous wanting is before reference time  | $\text{before}(\text{?t}, \text{tr}) \wedge$   |
| 23 | assert that current degree of wanting is greater than previous | $\text{greaterThan}(\text{?d2}, \text{?d1}) \wedge$  |
| 24 | assert grammatical object as experiencer of previous wanting   | $\text{experiencer}(\text{?s1}, \text{?y}) \wedge$   |
| 25 | assert grammatical object as experiencer of current wanting    | $\text{experiencer}(\text{?s2}, \text{?y}) \wedge$   |
| 26 | assert proposition   | $\text{Proposition}(\text{?p}) \wedge$   |
| 27 | assert proposition   | $\text{Proposition}(\text{?p2}) \wedge$  |
| 28 | assert degree  | $\text{Degree}(\text{?d1}) \wedge$   |
| 29 | assert degree  | $\text{Degree}(\text{?d2}) \wedge$   |
| 30 | assert time  | $\text{Time}(\text{?t})$   |

Table 1: SWRL rule implementing the description of *encourager<sub>2</sub>* in (4)

of semantic roles (lines 9 to 11), the specification of the involved states (or events) in lines 14 to 21 and 24 to 25, as well as the more specific temporal and degree assertions in lines 22 to 23 can be parametrised to suit other verb senses. For instance, the semantics of verbs like *inviter à P* ('to invite to *P*'), *inciter à P* ('to incite to *P*'), *pousser à P* ('push to *P*') and others also involve a comparison between different degrees of wanting *P* associated to different states. One possibility to achieve parametrisation is to store information on these individual segments as property values for the sense classes. These are read out by an external application and re-inserted into the model in the form of a SWRL rule. This way, it is not necessary to store inference rules for every single word sense, but to have only a small set of generally applicable static rules in the model, while specific ones applying in a given discourse are created dynamically using externally completed rule templates.

### 3 Disambiguation and Calculation of Inferences

In order to select the correct reading of a verbal predicate in a sentence like (2) and, moreover, to generate the appropriate semantic representation on the basis of this choice, our system passes a number of distinct analysis steps. Basically, the system receives input from a syntactic parser and tries to determine the correct senses of both the verbal predicate and its syntactic arguments, before calculating the inferences permitted on this interpretation. The process is summarised in Figure 1.

For the scope of this paper, we will ignore details on the syntactic analysis that precedes the semantic processing steps, and instead assume a syntactic parser which returns output like the one depicted in Figure 1, providing information on the predicate (*encourager*), its syntactic arguments (*lettre*, *voisin* and the infinitival complement), its modal context (e.g. embedding under *pouvoir*, 'can, be able to'), and the tense in which the predicate is used. These context features are crucial for determining the inferences that may be drawn, and thus play an important role in the semantic processing steps which build on the syntactic analysis (see below).

#### 3.1 Disambiguation of the predicate and its arguments

Before the correct sense of the verbal predicate can be selected, its syntactic arguments have to be disambiguated first. In order to achieve this, we apply a methodology that has been presented in [Spohr, 2008], which is very much in line with standard approaches to word-sense disambiguation (see e.g.

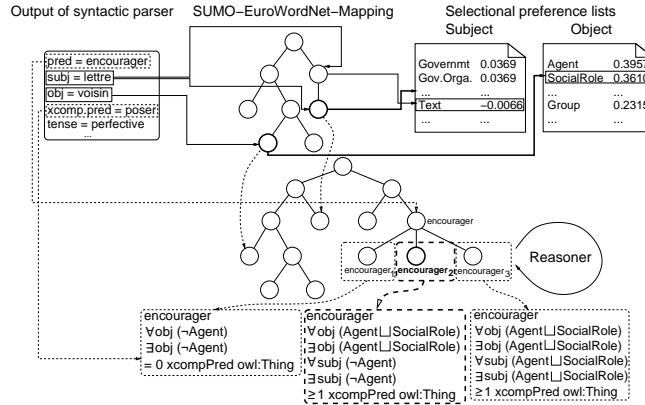


Figure 1: Schema of the process of determining the intended sense of *encourager* in (2) from syntactically parsed input

[Schulte im Walde, 2008] for a recent account of related work in this field). The major difference is that it makes use of ontological categories based on a mapping between the French EuroWordNet – a lexical semantic resource for French (EWN; see e.g. Vossen [1998]) – and the Suggested Upper Merged Ontology (SUMO; Niles and Pease [2003]). By applying this methodology to a verb like *encourager*, we obtain lists of selectional preferences w.r.t. to the ontological types of its subject and object (see top righthand corner of Figure 1). For the actual disambiguation, the different senses of the subject (*lettre* in the present case) are looked up in the SUMO-EWN mapping, and the sense scoring highest in the corresponding selectional preference list is selected. The words are then asserted as instances of the respective class (in this example *Text* for *lettre* and *SocialRole* for *voisin*) in the model.

The disambiguation of the arguments is not a deterministic process. However, when viewed from the abstract level of SUMO concepts, the senses distinguished in EWN are often still closely related so that their distinctions have no impact on the interpretation of the verb and thus the selection of the appropriate sense. E.g., although the three senses of *lettre* in EWN map onto two SUMO concepts (*Text* and *Character*), they are still subsumed under the common class *ContentBearingPhysical*, which suffices to select the correct sense of *encourager* irrespective of the particular sense of *lettre*. Thus, even though arguments may be disambiguated towards the wrong sense, the interpretation of the verb stays the same and the inferences drawn on the basis of this selection remain unaffected. Once the



arguments have been disambiguated, they are linked to the instance representing *encourager*. The intermediate ABox obtained from the operations so far looks as follows.

$$(6) \text{ encourager}(\_s) \wedge \text{subj}(\_s, \text{lettre}) \wedge \text{obj}(\_s, \text{voisin}) \wedge \text{Text}(\text{lettre}) \wedge \text{SocialRole}(\text{voisin})$$

The next step consists in determining the correct sense of *encourager*. As mentioned in Section 2 above, selectional restrictions have been implemented as necessary and sufficient conditions on class definitions, which allows a reasoner to infer the type of the instance on the basis of these conditions. With the configuration in (6), the reasoner<sup>8</sup> correctly infers the instance of *encourager* as being of the more specific type *encourager2*, as this is the only class satisfying the condition of having a subject that is not an Agent, while having an object either of type *Agent* or *SocialRole* (cf. Figure 1).

### 3.2 Calculation of inferences

The assertion of *encourager2*(*\_s*) in combination with *subj*(*\_s*, *lettre*)  $\wedge$  *obj*(*\_s*, *voisin*) causes the SWRL rule in Table 1 above to fire, so that the inferences can be calculated and inserted into the ABox. For this task we used version 7 of the Jess rule engine<sup>9</sup>. The result of the rule application is illustrated in Figure 2 and represents all assertions made on the basis of the input sentence (2).<sup>10</sup> The logical form of the graph is given below.

$$(7) \text{ encourager2}(\_s) \wedge \text{theme}(\_s, \text{lettre}) \wedge \text{target}(\_s, \text{voisin}) \wedge \text{goal}(\_s, \_p2) \\ \wedge \text{hasPart}(\_p2, \_s1) \wedge \text{WANTING}(\_s1) \wedge \text{degree}(\_s1, \_d1) \wedge \text{object}(\_s1, \_p) \\ \wedge \text{time}(\_s1, \_t) \wedge \text{hasPart}(\_p2, \_s2) \wedge \text{WANTING}(\_s2) \wedge \text{degree}(\_s2, \_d2) \\ \wedge \text{object}(\_s2, \_p) \wedge \text{time}(\_s2, \_tr) \wedge \text{before}(\_t, \_tr) \wedge \text{greaterThan}(\_d2, \_d1) \\ \wedge \text{experiencer}(\_s1, \text{voisin}) \wedge \text{experiencer}(\_s2, \text{voisin}) \wedge \text{Proposition}(\_p) \\ \wedge \text{Proposition}(\_p2) \wedge \text{Degree}(\_d1) \wedge \text{Degree}(\_d2) \wedge \text{Time}(\_t)$$

After the application of this rule, we can execute the rule corresponding to the representation of the embedded infinitive, which is triggered by the use of the perfective tense in sentence (2). In order to avoid repetition, we will restrict ourselves to presenting only those statements that are introduced

<sup>8</sup>We have used the Pellet OWL DL reasoner (<http://pellet.owldl.com/>).

<sup>9</sup>See <http://www.jessrules.com/>.

<sup>10</sup>The visualisation of the graph has been done using the Protégé Jambalaya plug-in (see <http://www.thechiselgroup.org/jambalaya>).

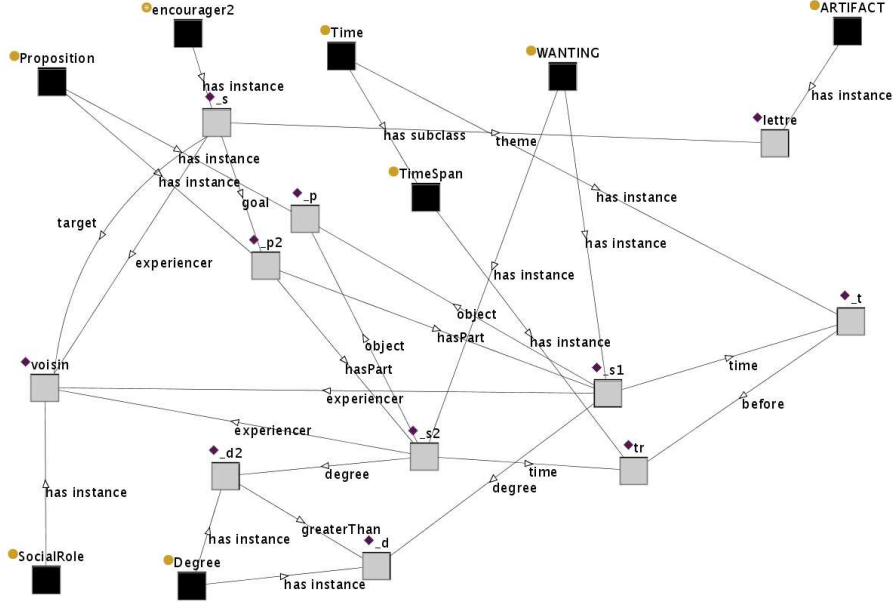


Figure 2: Model after execution of the SWRL rule in Table 1

by the embedded infinitive. Again, a certain sense of *poser* is instantiated in the lexicon, which then triggers the application of an inference rule<sup>11</sup>.

$$(8) \text{poser2}(\_e) \wedge \text{MOVING}(\_e) \wedge \text{agent}(\_e, \text{voisin}) \wedge \text{theme}(\_e, \text{bombe}) \wedge \text{Weapon}(\text{bombe}) \wedge \text{inside}(\_s3, \text{cave}) \wedge \text{Artifact}(\text{cave}) \wedge \text{theme}(\_s3, \text{bombe}) \wedge \text{outside}(\_s4, \text{cave}) \wedge \text{theme}(\_s4, \text{bombe}) \wedge \text{time}(\_s4, \_t2) \wedge \text{time}(\_e, \_t3) \wedge \text{before}(\_t2, \_t3) \wedge \text{cause}(\_e, \_s3)$$

The interpretation of this logical form is that a “moving” event  $\_e$  took place that causes the *bombe*, which was outside of the basement at a previous state  $\_s4$ , to be inside the basement at a state  $\_s3$ . Moreover, this event  $\_e$  is linked to the representation given in (7) as being a part of the proposition  $\_p$ . As a result, the model captures appropriately the fact that in sentence (2), the verb *encourager* instantiates what we called its implicative reading.

<sup>11</sup>*Weapon* and *Artifact* are SUMO concepts subsuming the senses of *bombe* and *cave*.

## 4 Conclusion

We have presented an approach to modelling polysemous verbs using standard formalisms such as OWL and SWRL. We have shown how the disambiguation of the verbs and their arguments can be performed in this setting, and how inferences can be calculated and inserted into a representation that can be interpreted by tools developed in the context of the Semantic Web.

One of the advantages of our approach is that fine-grained sense distinctions based on contextual features enable accurate annotation of particular senses, and with it the calculation of inferences allowed by the respective sense. Moreover, the resource combines formal semantics with up-to-date technology for semantic processing and is thus more formalised and detailed than existing lexical semantic resources. WordNet [Fellbaum, 1998], for example, distinguishes three senses of *to encourage* (1. 'support, back up', 2. 'inspire, animate...', 3. 'induce, stimulate...'), without accounting for the difference between implicative and non-implicative readings: the examples show clearly that both are subsumed by sense 3 (e.g. 'The ads induced me to buy a VCR' vs. 'My children finally got me to buy a computer'). FrameNet [Baker et al., 1998] contains only one sense of *to encourage*, which it associates with the ATTEMPT\_SUASION frame. This frame corresponds to the non-implicative reading (definition: 'The Speaker expresses through language his wish to get the Addressee to act. There is no implication that the Addressee forms an intention to act, let alone acts.'). whereas e.g. SUASION implies that the Addressee forms an intention or accepts some content. However, *encourage* is neither associated with this latter frame, nor with a frame implying an action. Moreover, it does not emphasise the contextual parameters mentioned above (e.g. the presence of arguments and their ontological type), which trigger certain interpretations and are crucial for determining the sense of a verb as well as its inferences. More closely related is VerbNet [Kipper Schuler, 2005], though the major difference lies in the formal semantic description that is the output of our analysis.

Although the system is – due to lack of coverage – not in a state of being applied to sophisticated reasoning tasks such as the RTE challenge [Dagan et al., 2005], the inclusion of the contained knowledge into existing systems designed for such tasks seems very promising. The RTE challenge consists in determining, given two text fragments, whether one text fragment is entailed by the other. In our examples, the hypothesis "A bomb has been placed." can only be inferred from sentence (2), not from (1). This shows that great detail in the semantic description is a definite asset and an important step beyond the information contained in existing lexical semantic resources.

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