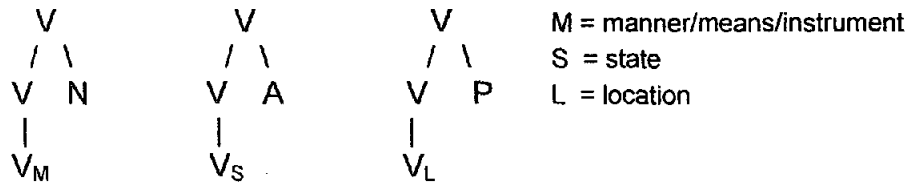# Appendix I: Invited Talk

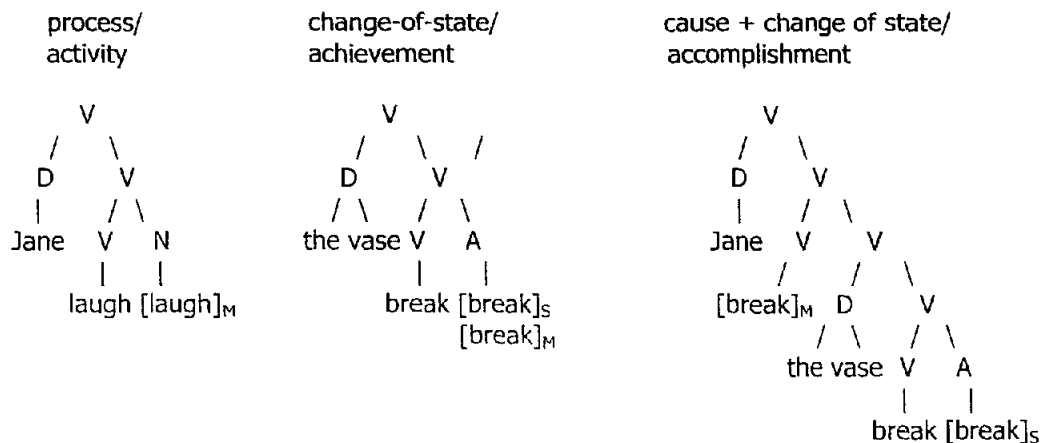# From lexical-aspectual components to syntax.

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We present a theory of syntactic projection, arguing that aspectual-syntactic structure is directly projected from a limited inventory of lexical semantic components. Only lexical meaning components, necessary in any case for interpretation, can project structure. In our approach, the lexicon is not a separate level of representation with its own restrictions; we offer a structural account for what has hitherto been accounted for in terms of argument (number) specification, theta-roles, and mapping conditions.

Each lexical semantic component projects a V-complement structure, the complement typically realizing the categorical type of the component, as shown:

```
    V              V              V         M = manner/means/instrument
   / \            / \            / \        S = state
  V   N          V   A          V   P       L = location
  |              |              |
  V_M            V_S            V_L
```

The full projections correspond roughly to the Vendler-Dowty aspectual classes:

```
process/            change-of-state/       cause + change of state/
activity            achievement            accomplishment

     V                    V                       V
    / \                 / \  /                   / \
   D   V               D    V                   D   V
   |   / \            / \  / \                  |   / \
  Jane V   N       the vase V   A              Jane V   V
       |   |                |   |                   /  / \
     laugh [laugh]_M      break [break]_S      [break]_M  D    V
                          [break]_M                      / \  / \
                                                   the vase V    A
                                                            |    |
                                                          break [break]_S
```

Projection is free. Transitivity thus follows from the number of projected meaning components and crucially from the availability of an interpretation for each component in a particular projection.

Unprojected components are aspectually defocussed (backgrounded) and are interpreted as modifiers. Such aspectual defocussing also accounts for the variety of constructions in which different verbs can occur, e.g. the contrast between *break* and *cut*, which does not allow *The cake cut*.

We demonstrate how a combination of semantic component projection and aspectual focus accounts for the possibilities of verbal distribution and interpretation.