Towards a full-coverage approach: issues and challenges of our shared construction annotation task

Sascha Michel
Ann-Katrin Nöhren
Alexander Willich
Alexander Ziem

Our talk aims at introducing shared full-text annotations of constructions as a heuristic for identifying construction candidates and exploring interactions among them. In the first part of our talk, we briefly describe basic functionalities of the AnnotationTool (AT). The AT has been developed to account for the specific requirements for annotating grammatical constructions (within a FrameNet constructicon approach). Importantly, in the German FrameNet & Constructicon Project the AT also serves as an interface, linking annotations either with the repository of constructions (Constructicon) or with the repository of frames (FrameNet). In the main part of our talk, we focus on constructicographic issues relating to actual annotations of the second chapter of "Der Kleine Prinz". Specifically, we address the following questions:

- Given the goal of covering all the constructions instantiated in the text, what are the theoretical and practical requirements to be successful?
- Which (types of) annotation categories have we chosen?
- How did we proceed in practical terms?

Full-text annotations relying on ad-hoc categories raise a number of challenges that a full-coverage approach has to face. Among them, we find open questions relating to rather theoretical issues addressing, for example, the role of null instantiations, the distinction between core and non-core construction elements as well as between external and internal construction elements. Other challenges have a direct impact on the practice of annotation, for example: What's the appropriate level of generalization of a construction to account for a construct? To what extent is it necessary to consider potential variations of the unit addressed? Based on our experiences, we will finally present a list of issues that we consider most important in our shared annotation task.