

Xposition: An Online Multilingual Database of Adpositional Semantics

Luke Gessler, Austin Blodgett, Joseph Ledford, Nathan Schneider

lg876@georgetown.edu, austin.j.blodgett@gmail.com, {jcl240,nathan.schneider}@georgetown.edu



Introduction

- Integrated platform for annotation guidelines, lexicographic databases, and annotated corpora for the SNACS project
- Centralization of these components aids discoverability, maintenance, and development
- Live at http://xposition.org/

The mountains are 3 km away_from our house. (Locus→Direction)

Compare Extent, which is the length of a path of motion or the amount of change.

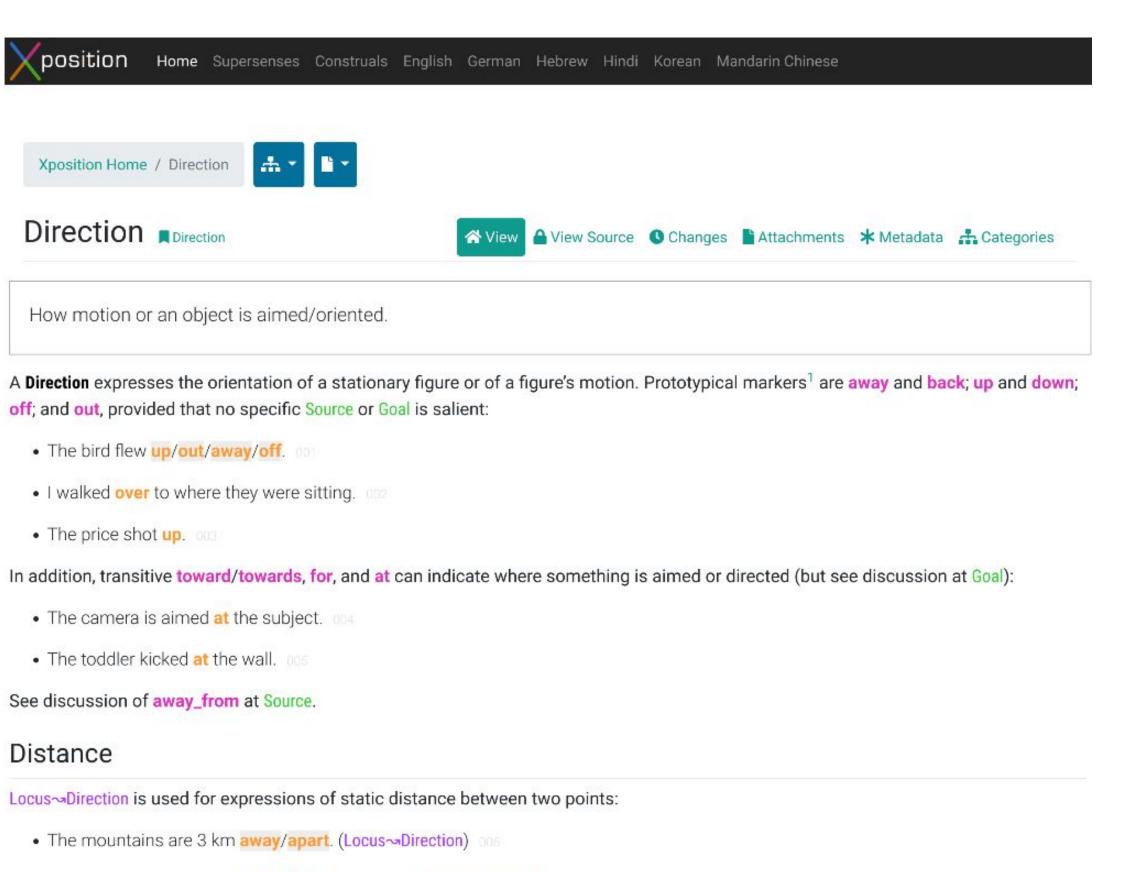
They live (way) out past_{Locus}→Path the highway/over by_{Locus} the school (Locus →Direction)

Informal direction modifier in location description

Known variously as adverbs, particles, and intransitive prepositions. ←

The mountains are an hour away/apart. (Locus → Direction)

Cf. Interval#003 at Interval.



This also applies to distances measured by travel time (the amount of time is taken to be metonymic for the physical distance):

SNACS

- Semantic Network of Adposition and Case Semantics: cross-linguistic framework for annotating adposition semantics
- Inventory of 50 supersenses
 - Miriam will go to the beach for_{Duration} a week

 - Miriam will go to the beach for Purpose Purpose vacation
 Miriam went to the beach from Source Source the airport
 - Miriam gazed at the sunset from Locus Source the beach
- Guidelines and data exist for 6 languages, alongside UD annotations

Design Goals

- Multilingual support: full support for Unicode and typological variation (e.g. postpositions vs. prepositions)
- Approachability: UI/UX designed to assume as little knowledge of SNACS as possible and minimize clutter/jargon
- **Discoverability**: bidirectional linking between data, guidelines, and lexicographic entries
- Easy guideline maintenance: guidelines should be easy to edit
- Versioning: everything (data, guidelines, lexicographic entries) should be versioned, and past versions should be retained

Implementation

- Implemented as a fork of a Python wiki system (django-wiki)
- Custom hypertext format allows consistent HTML formatting

Future Work

- Parallel corpus support
- Annotation interface
- Much more

