

An HPSG account of coded causal–noncausal verb pairs

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HPSG 2021
Frankfurt, Germany
July 28–30, 2021

Examples from Haspelmath et al. (2014)

	CAUSAL	NONCAUSAL
Japanese	<i>koor-ase-</i>	<i>koor</i>
Swahili	<i>gand-isha</i>	<i>ganda</i>
	'freeze (tr.)'	'freeze (intr.)'
Japanese	<i>war-</i>	<i>war-e-</i>
Swahili	<i>vunja</i>	<i>vunj-ika</i>
	'break (tr.)'	'break (intr.)'

Challenges

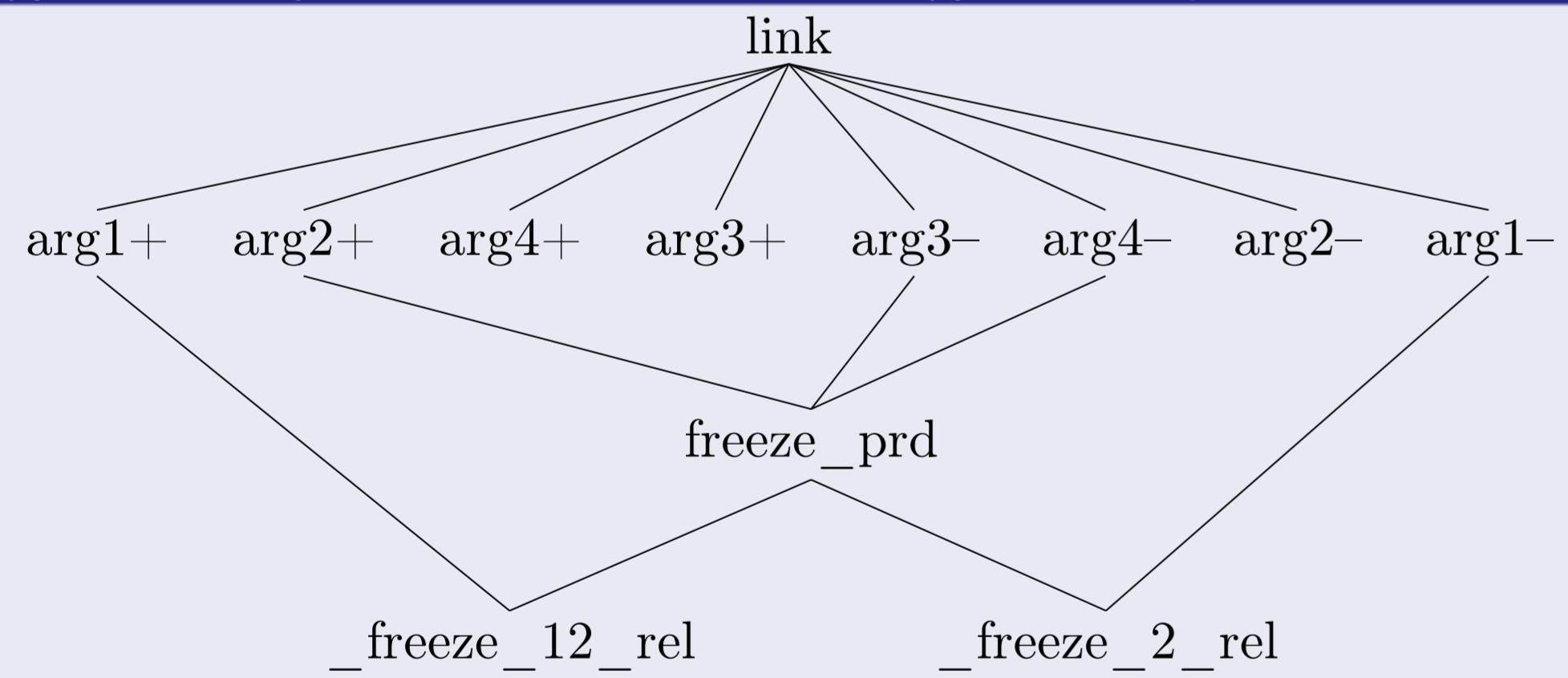
- Causal marking is uncontroversial
 - adding a causative relation
- Noncausal marking is challenging
 - removing a causative relation

Assumed lexical entry for *freeze*

<i>lexeme</i>	
ORTH	$\langle \text{freeze} \rangle$
KEYREL	$[\text{PRED } \text{freeze_prd}]$

Figure: Lexical entry for *freeze*

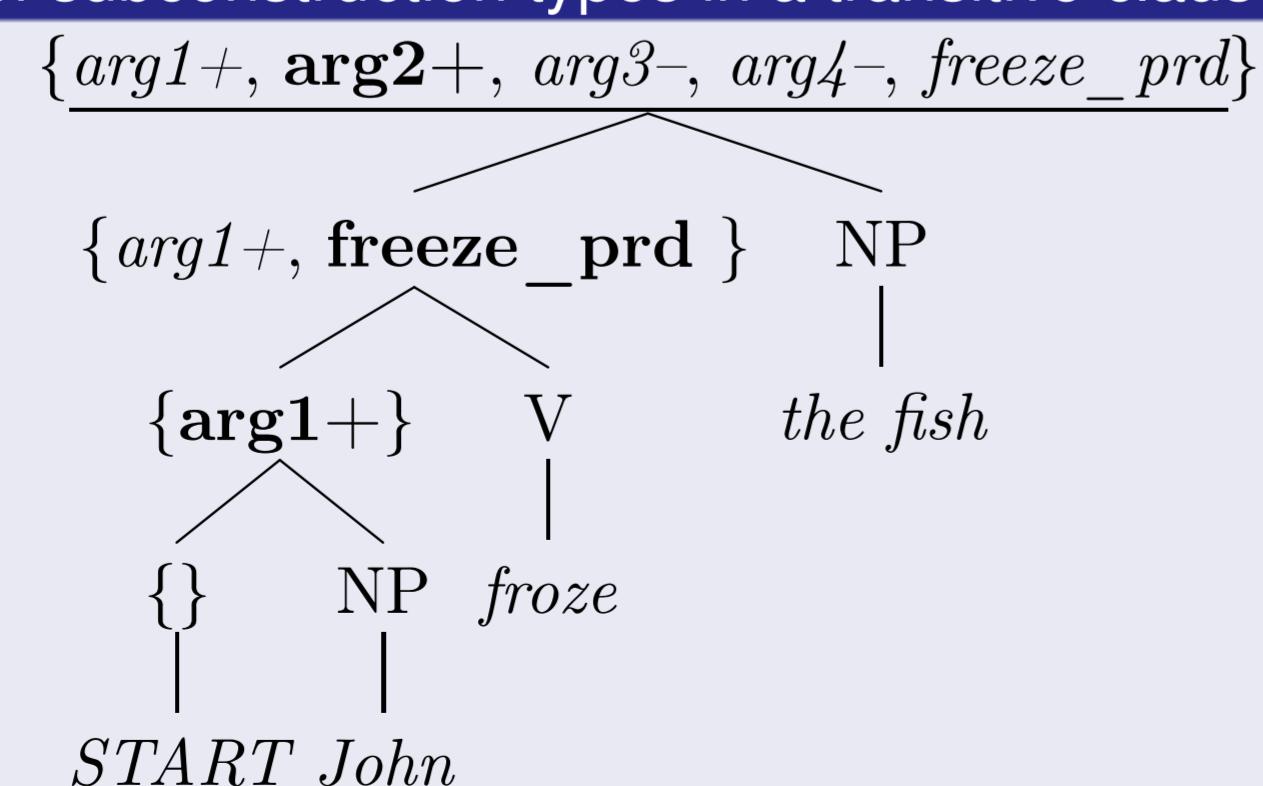
Type hierarchy with the subconstruction type *freeze_prd*



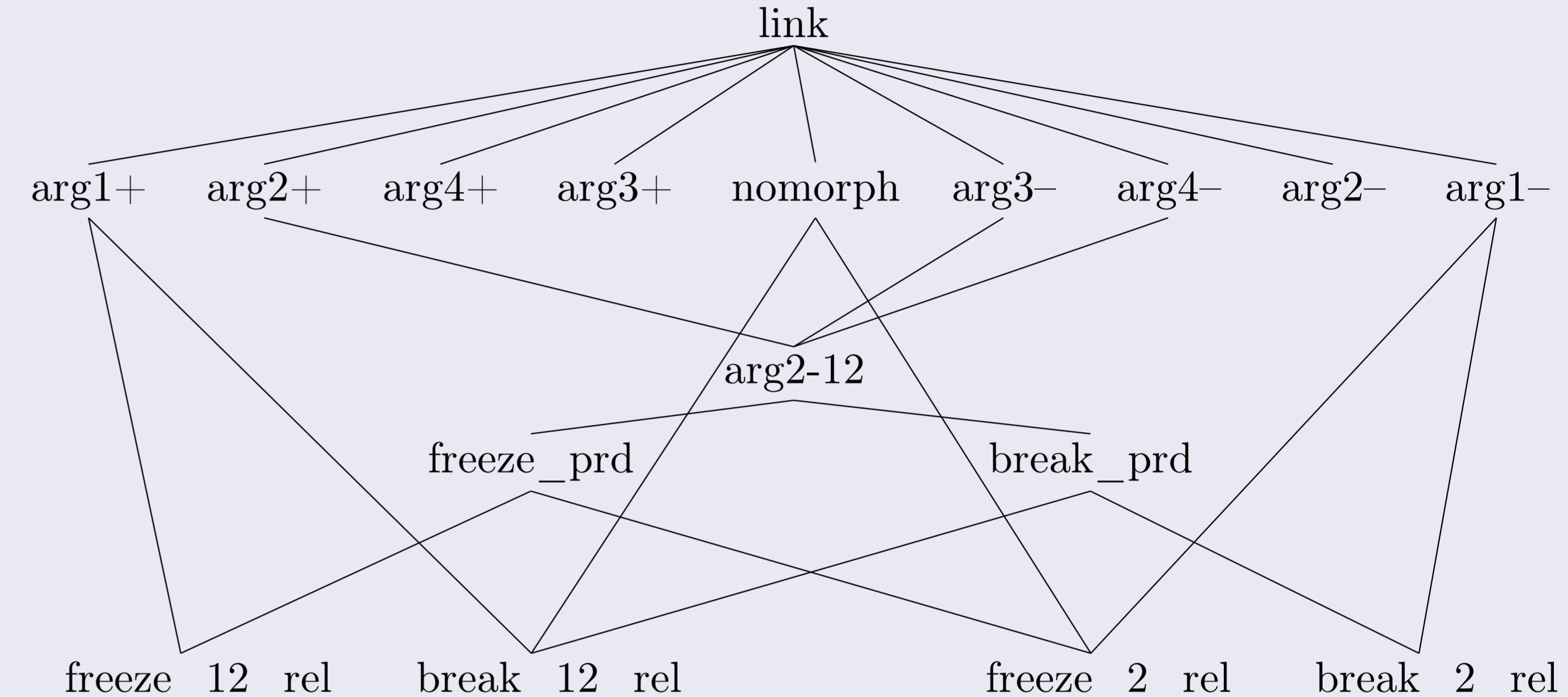
Four valence features

- CMP1:**
 - external subject
- CMP2:**
 - (deep) direct object
- CMP3:**
 - (deep) indirect object
- CMP4:**
 - oblique object

Illustration of the realization of subconstruction types in a transitive clause



The subconstruction types *freeze_prd* and *break_prd* in Japanese and Swahili



Causative lexical rule for Swahili

<i>caus-lex-rule</i>	
ORTH	$\text{1} \oplus \langle \text{isha} \rangle$
KEYREL	$[\text{PRED } \text{2} \ arg1+ \wedge \ arg2+]$
ARGS	$\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{lexeme} \\ \text{ORTH} \\ \text{KEYREL } \text{1} \\ [\text{PRED } \text{2}] \end{array} \rangle$

Anticausative lexical rule for Swahili

<i>anticaus-lex-rule</i>	
ORTH	$\text{1} \oplus \langle \text{ika} \rangle$
KEYREL	$[\text{PRED } \text{2} \ arg1- \wedge \ arg2+]$
ARGS	$\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{lexeme} \\ \text{ORTH} \\ \text{KEYREL } \text{1} \\ [\text{PRED } \text{2}] \end{array} \rangle$

Non-inflectional lexical rule

<i>non-infl-lex-rule</i>	
ORTH	1
KEYREL	$[\text{PRED } \text{2} \ nomorph \wedge \ arg2+]$
ARGS	$\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{lexeme} \\ \text{ORTH} \\ \text{KEYREL } \text{1} \\ [\text{PRED } \text{2}] \end{array} \rangle$