

Valency in psych nominals¹

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In my talk, I will attempt to present a new look at the old problems: (i) the difference between argument realization in clauses and in deverbal nominal structures, (ii) the difference between argument realization in action nominals and in psych nominals. Here the focus is on psych nominals from the perspective of most recent accounts that link the valency in nominals to the event structure and event size. Building on current insights coming from various directions, I look at Polish psych nominals and argue that psych eventualities are complex and consist of two sub-events. I demonstrate that the effect of nominalization of dyadic psych predicates is to truncate the initial sub-event (i.e., onset to a state), as a consequence of which such nominals have a state denotation. Alternatively, the nominal may denote the onset subevent corresponding to the intransitive form of a psych predicate with the reflexive morphology inherited by the nominal. Thus, argument structure (valency) of psych nouns provides some evidence for the event structure of psych eventualities and supports numerous recent claims that valency in deverbal nominals is sensitive to sub-event composition of complex eventualities. Moreover, the distribution of satellites in psych nominals leads to the conclusion that they have only a single structural event participant, the holder of the (emotional) state. The evidence from psych nominals provides indirect evidence for the hypothesis that psych verbs all contain a state component in their event structure, which the nominalizing operator can select. Furthermore, psych nominals support the views that nominalization is a valency-reducing operation sensitive to event structure. This is correlated with truncation of subevents.

¹ This research is funded by grant 2014/15/B/HS2/00588 from National Science Centre, Poland.